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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-045
Wednesday
7 March 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-045 *7 March 1990*

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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Tells U.S. Israeli Attempts Rejected

TA0603151090 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 5 Mar 90 pp 1, 11

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpt] The PLO has officially and unequivocally informed the United States that it rejects Israeli attempts to paper over the issue of East Jerusalem with respect to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

A Palestinian note delivered to Washington in the past hours states that any change must take place within the framework of a "comprehensive discussion" of the proposed issues.

Informed sources state that two of the deportees who have official positions will take part in the Palestinian delegation for the dialogue with Israel. These deportees will submit their resignations and then will return to the occupied territories if efforts to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue succeed.

These sources add that the PLO will not give Israel a "chance" to reject or accept the names of the participants in the delegation. The same sources stress that the U.S. Administration has recently received reports from numerous Arab and international agencies, as well as from inside the United States itself, indicating that U.S. interests in the Arab homeland and in non-Arab countries will be subjected to danger should the peace efforts fail. [passage omitted]

Fatah Representative on PLO-Israeli Dialogue

NC0603215390 Cairo MENA in English 2121 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, Mar 6 (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah Movement representative here, stressed that the document signed by a number of prominent Palestinian figures in the occupied territories and calling upon Israel to negotiate with the PLO, demonstrated anew that the organization was indispensable in any Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

In his today's statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said that if Israel was actually serious about the peace process, then it should pursue one course, that of talking with the PLO which the entire Palestinian people, inside and outside, were agreed that it was their sole, legitimate representative.

Abu-Sharif: Palestinian Dialogue 'This Month'

JN0503083490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 5 Mar (WAKH)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, has said that he expects the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to begin before the end of this month, March, and the tripartite ministerial council to begin within two days. In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD published today, Abu-Sharif noted his meeting last week with Douglas Hurd, British foreign secretary of state for foreign affairs. He said the meeting dealt with the successive political developments in the region, particularly with regard to the idea of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Abu-Sharif affirmed that Hurd expressed satisfaction with the stand adopted by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the continuation of peace efforts. Hurd was also acquainted with the serious situation in the occupied Arab territory and was presented a detailed explanation of the massacre perpetrated by the Zionist forces in Rafah recently in addition to the dangers of the Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine. [passage omitted]

Jews Prevent Upgrading of PLO London Office

JN0603154690 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 5 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the British Government at the last minute reneged on its decision to grant the PLO office full diplomatic status in Britain—it only changed the name of the information office into diplomatic legation. This happened after British Jewish organizations threatened the Conservative Party with not delivering British Jewish votes to Conservative Party candidates, particularly Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who represents Wembley in the Parliament. The majority of the citizens in Wembley are Jews. Informed British sources in London told AL-ITTIHAD that these organizations intervened with the British Government two weeks ago when officials at the Foreign Office were studying the possibility of agreeing to upgrade the Palestinian representation in Britain to the official level granted to the PLO in the rest of the EEC states. Thus, they prevented the issuance of the British decision.

Malaysian Reportage on Yasir 'Arafat's Visit

WA0603150090

For Malaysian reportage on the visit to Malaysia by Yasir 'Arafat, including his meetings with Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Bin-Mohamed and Defense Minister Ahmed Rithauddeen Bin-Ismail and his comments on Jewish immigration to Israel and the possible linking of WAFA and BERNAMA press agencies, see the Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore section of the 6 March and subsequent issues of the East Asia DAILY REPORT.

'Arafat Pays Official Visit to Uganda 1 Mar

WA0703140890

For Baghdad VOP and Kampala Radio reportage on the one-day visit to the Republic of Uganda by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, including the joint news conference with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni in Entebbe, see the Uganda section of the 7 March Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT.

Algeria

FLN Meets With Government Members 6 Mar

LD0603222590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Since this morning a coordination meeting bringing together the members of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau, members of the National People's Assembly, and also members of the government has been going on at the Palace of Nations' Pine Club. The meeting was opened by FLN General Secretary Abdelhamid Mehri with an analytical review of the draft bills before the people's deputies at their extraordinary session and the current issues on the national scene. We will review the details with Mohamed Chelouche, direct from the Palace of Nations.

[Chelouche] It became clear through the analytical review presented by Abdelhamid Mehri, that the aim was clarity and the removal of all causes of divergence within the ranks of the FLN, as well as overcoming the ambiguity regarding the contents and aims of the reforms. We also noticed the firm intention to make the stance of the FLN the arbiter with regard to the major issues which lately have became a source of interpretation and speculation, intentionally or otherwise.

Regarding the organization of relations within the institutions and the trade union practice, Mehri affirmed that the militants of the FLN advocate the defense of the legitimate rights of the workers, however, they must have enough courage to stand against the demagogic trends and unionist upmanship. Regarding the trade union organization, Mehri sees that the social forces, at the fore of which are the workers, should maintain the unity of the trade union organization because the interest of the workers and the country currently demand the coherence of the workers' unity. The general secretary noted that the recent strikes were called for by unknown or quasi-unknown elements and were devoid of any specific and clear demands; they were also staged without consultation with the workers. There were also strikes which escalated because of upmanship from some political trends including the FLN. Therefore, Mehri said that the need arises for accelerating the process of laying the legal rules to organize the trade union work.

Mehri focussed on another issue, namely that of information which, as he put it, has spilled a lot of ink. What is the front's stand? Mehri gave the final ruling in this regard and said: We cannot imagine political pluralism without information pluralism. We must know what is behind every title and who is behind every title and every paper; this is important, not only to define responsibility but also to organize the political dialogue. Information confusion serves nobody; we must call things by their names.

On the fate of those working in this sector, Mehri said they should be given the freedom to choose the party which they want to defend. The general secretary brought up the question of the front's right to direct information—the question which stirred intensive and diversified discussion—and said: If some institutions deny the front the right to direct information, then the front has the right to deny these institutions the right to criticize the front. This is in reference to the issue of AL-SHA'B and 'AL-MUJAHID.

Mehri also spoke of the election law and explained that this law must be fully democratic and responsive to the reforms; it should also prevent and deny attempts to dismember the political arena. Here he stressed the need for ruling out the full percentage ration in the voting system because it might reflect a young political arena with shallow roots of pluralism. The voting system must also be uncomplicated, easy to apply by the administration, and easy to comprehend by the citizen. [passage omitted]

After Mehri's keynote address, Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche intervened with an analytical and explanatory review of the draft bills before the people's deputies on the eve of the assembly's extraordinary session. The prime minister commented on the elections draft bill and the relevance of the government's proposal to amend it, after it had been approved only eight months ago.

[Begin Hamrouche recording] In fact, we should realized that development has become fundamental. The ammendments which we have introduced in this context encompass a number of objectives, i.e. to ensure the stability of the elected council with the aim of organizing the local running of affairs, enabling the majority to run the affairs while allowing the minority, which represents a trend among the citizens, to express itself in the elected council, and raise discusions within the constituent bodies and not in the public streets or other places. Second, these amendments aim to ensure the presence of the FLN in all of the elected councils in order to prevent a political monopoly, which might be applied by some of the oposition trends, and prevent it from being used as a tool with which to spring to power at other levels. Another aim is to provide training on the rules of democracy at the grassroots level and to hold debates and political choices within this framework at the level of the ordinary citizen so that he can resolve his problems at the municipal and wilaya levels, simultaneously enabling the emergence of genuine parties representing a social group or segment or a number of citizens. The political reforms approved by the FLN reject artificial parties and artificial pluralism and consequently the genuine party is the party which represents a group of people. Here it must be recalled that the development of reforms becomes apparent at the level of local government, and it becomes an element of the democratic development and the credibility of the state. Within this perception, we have to make it obligatory for the new parties to submit tangible programs for genuinely tackling those preoccupations. [end recording]

[Chelouche] The prime minister provided extensive explanations regarding the various draft bills before the people's deputies, including the draft bill of reporting assets.

[Begin Hamrouche recording] It came in response, first, to what the president decided before the sixth congress and is also in response to the repeated requests of the citizens and the party militants that public life be characterized with morality and political work with credibility. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Chelouche] Following Hamrouche's review, the floor was opened for questions; the interventions are still underway with the debate expected to resume in the afternoon. From the Palace of Nations, goodbye.

UN Envoy on Western Sahara Meets Leaders

Received by President Bendjedid

LD0303190390 Algiers APS in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 3 Mar (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid today received Johannes Manz, the UN secretary general's special representative on Western Sahara. At this audience, which was attended by Foreign Minister Seyed Ahmed Ghazali, and Hocine Djoudi, Algeria's permanent representative at the United Nations, Johannes Manz conveyed a message to the head of state from UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. Mr. Manz stated upon leaving the president of the Republic's office that his meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid falls within the framework of his first visit to the region and within his capacity as the UN secretary general's special representative on Western Sahara, as well as within the framework of continuing the good offices to resolve the Western Sahara problem.

Talks With Foreign Minister

LD0303233390 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Seyed Ahmed Ghazali today received Johannes Manz, special envoy of the UN secretary general on Western Sahara.

Seyed Ahmed Ghazali hailed, first of all, the appointment of Manz which, he said, constitutes a measure in support of the joint mediatory aim of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity, OAU. Seyed Ahmed Ghazali took the opportunity to reaffirm Algeria's continued support of the Sahraoui people's pursuance of their right to self-determination without any pressure, irrespective of the nature of the pressure, and in accordance with the joint mediatory efforts of the UN secretary general and the current chairman of the OAU.

Islamic Salvation Front's Madani Interviewed

LD0103221890 Algiers APS in English 1110 GMT 1 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers. 1 Mar (APS)—The spokesman of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), Abbassi Madani, excluded Tuesday during the television program "meeting with the press," the adhesion of his country [as received] to the idea of a formation of a national pact which he qualified as "politician manoeuvre and obstacle to multipartism, to reforms and to dialogue."

"Multipartism, he said, is a sine qua non condition to deepen the democratic process in our country." "However, he added, we notice at present a formal and quaint multipartism."

Continuing his analysis on multipartism, Abassi gave the concept of his party on opposition which must be according to him, critical and objective, in order to help the party in power correct errors and unveil the truth to the people when some try to hide it.

Asked if the FIS would authorize some political parties once it reaches power, he said this question "would be answered by the people."

After recalling that both socialism and capitalism have shown their limits, Abassi said that the only alternative was the Islamic solution.

Moreover, the spokesman of the FIS said that democracy is not an alternative but a means to enable people to choose the means and leader which they consider the best ones.

On another development, Madani announced that the FIS would take part in the forthcoming local elections.

Concerning the economic aspect which was not given its due importance, Abassi said "the fiscal policy is the cause of inflation." In this context, he proposed "the substitution of taxes by the "zakat" (donation) in conformity with the shari'ah (islamic law)" "The taxes, he said, must only be collected in case of major necessities such as war."

Answering a question on the external debt, Abassi Madani excluded rescheduling which constitute according to him "an attempt to national sovereignty."

"The FIS, which is a political party as the other parties, admits coexistence, complementarity and cooperation between the parties," he said adding that "this ideology is rejected by peoples not governments."

Finally, Abassi denied having contacts in Switzerland with the chairman of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria (MDA), Ahmed Ben Bella. He also denied to have been received by Saudi authorities during his latest trip to Saudi Arabia.

FFS Refuses 'Discriminatory' Government Subsidy

LD0303161290 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Front of Socialist Forces [FFS] party refuses the subsidy granted by the government. That is what the FFS states in a declaration given to the news today. The FFS stresses in its declaration that a year after launching a multiparty system the democratic process is still encoutering obstacles, particularly because of poor means at the disposal of political parties. The latest measures concerning subsidies in favor of parties seem to be discriminatory. [passage omitted]

Parties To Appear in Radio, TV 'Tribune' Program

LD0503123690 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Algiers, 5 March (APS)—The legal political parties can use all the channels of the Algerian radio to express themselves. Entitled "Tribune of Political Parties", this daily 10 minute program will enable the parties to present the main lines of their program.

This program was inaugurated yesterday after the midday news of the first channel of the national radio by the Gathering for Culture and Democracy (RCD).

In channel 3, the program will be broadcast after the 7 pm news. The same tribune will be programmed on TV starting from March 17. Three times a week, two parties will have five minutes to present their program before the 8 pm news.

Egypt

Columnist on U.S. Role in Soviet Jewish Emigration

JN0603184790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Mar 90 p 12

[From "The Key Hole" column by Kamil Zuhayri]

[Text] America is adding more fuel to fire. The day before yesterday, the United States granted Israel $400 million to settle new immigrants. American Zionist and Jewish organizations have promised to raise $1 billion more. With this aid, America is applying the policy of deportation step by step, paying no attention to the rights of the Palestinians and turning a deaf ear to the cries of the Arabs—leaders, governments, and peoples.

Last September, America shut its doors to over 50,000 emigrants to divert Jewish emigration toward Palestine. It is repeating the same catastrophe of 1920-1935, when the United States also halted immigration. America is now repeating the same scenario: closing U.S. doors to immigration so that the illegitimate emigration pours from all nations into Palestine.

Only three months after the U.S. September immigration laws, America negotiated a deal with the Soviet Union according to which the Soviet Union would join the GATT and the U.S. 1974 laws curbing U.S. loans and banning the entry of Soviet commodities into the U.S. market would be abolished in return for facilitating Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. This is the deal that was concluded at the Malta summit in September. It is another step to implement the policy of a closed U.S. door and an open Soviet door.

After the September and December developments, the U.S. financing decision was announced in February. All these planned and related steps are ultimately aimed at securing the emigration of 1 million Soviet Jews.

The U.S. decision to facilitate, arrange, and finance Soviet Jewish emigration to Palestine and the occupied territories is the most dangerous U.S. decision of all time. It is more dangerous than the U.S. airlift during the October war and more dangerous than the U.S. strategic agreement with Israel. America no longer only supports Israel as a state, but also supports the Zionist claim that all the world's Jews are Israeli citizens.

We should soon expect a U.S. diplomatic campaign to abolish the 1975 [UN] resolution considering Zionism a form of racism. The campaign was started by the U.S. vice president last year and will resume before the end of this year.

America has turned out to be not only Israel's ally, but it is applying the Zionist ideology that calls for a Greater [kubra] Israel, or rather, a Cobra Israel.

Papers Comment on U.S. Stand

NC0203073790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 2 Mar (MENA)—Today's editions of AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH call on the United States to adopt an effective position to make Israel accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals and start a dilalogue with the Palestinians, now that U.S. credibility is at risk more than at any time before.

AL-AKHBAR notes the White House and U.S. Department of State statements on Washington's warnings to Israel to give up its stand rejecting Baker's compromise solutions to the representation of the Palestinian side to the proposed negotiations. It says these statements are meaningless if Washington continues to provide Israel with financial, military, and technical aid.

The paper points out that Washington's help to Israel in this manner undoubtedly demonstrates that the United States is not serious in its apparent support for peace efforts.

It emphasizes that the continuous U.S. pressure on the Soviet Union to allow the Jews to travel to Tel Aviv directly as well as the huge financial appropriations to help them settle in the occupied Arab land prove beyond any doubt the true U.S. role in committing the crime of capturing what is left of the Palestinian people's land.

The paper concludes by saying that it is no secret that Shamir would not have dared to violate Washington's alleged wishes if he were not sure of America's support.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Washington's mere censuring and condemnation of settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied land is not enough.

It adds that U.S. censure is not sufficient to balance the role the U.S. Administration played during the office of former Presidents Reagan and Carter in facilitating the Soviet Jews' immigration under the human rights clause.

The paper notes a statement by an Israeli official in which he expected to receive 230,000 Jews, saying that statistics reveal that the majority of them is of high-performce labor.

The paper concludes: Disregarding the artificial or fundamental differences within the Israeli institution, U.S. credibility is therefore indeed put to the test, and results will not be seen unless the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue has actually begun.

Tunisian President Arrives on Official Visit

NC0603113690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali arrived in Cairo this afternoon on an official three-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt in response to an invitation from President Husni Mubarak.

President Mubarak headed the officials who welcomed the Tunisian president.

Talks Previewed; Delegation Listed

LD0603143790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Official talks between Presidents Ben Ali and Mubarak will begin this evening. The talks will focus on bilateral relations and prospects of strengthening them, Arab, African, and international issues, and opportunities for cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union and the Arab Cooperation Council. [passage omitted]

President Ben Ali is accompanied by an important delegation which includes Habib Boulares, minister and special adviser to the president: Mustapha Bouaziz, minister for state properties; Ismail Khelil, minister of foreign affairs; and Mouldi Zoaoui, secretary of state for industry and trade.

Mubarak, Ben Ali Hold Talks

NC0603205590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1810 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Presidents Husni Mubarak and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held another round of talks lasting for more than an hour in the presidential office in Heliopolis this evening.

MENA learned that they discussed a number of international and regional issues of mutual concern to both countries. Foremost of these were the Middle East issue in light of developments in the Arab and international arenas, the efforts to bring about a durable peace in the Gulf, and the deteriorating situation in Lebanon.

Presidents Mubarak and Ben Ali also discussed prospects for cooperation and coordination between the Arab Cooperation Council and Arab Maghreb Union member countries.

The two leaders reviewed the possibilities of bilateral cooperation in all spheres and ways to promote and develop ties between the two countries in the next stage.

Ben Ali Comments on Meeting

NC0603210590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1947 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Following his talks with President Husni Mubarak this evening, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said his meeting with President Mubarak was friendly and useful. He said:

We discussed a variety of issues of common interest. We particularly discussed ways to promote and broaden the ties of cooperation between the two fraternal countries, proceeding from the brotherly relations that link the two peoples and the political resolve to elevate this cooperation to a satisfactory level. Although bilateral cooperation reached a distinguished standard during the last two years, we constantly try to bring the exchanges to the level of the close association between the two countries that share the same civilization and history.

Naturally, we discussed the political developments in our Arab and African areas and means of establishing a firm cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union currently chaired by Tunisia and the Arab Cooperation Council in which Egypt plays an active role, as well as African issues as Egypt now chairs the OAU.

We also reviewed developments in the Palestinian issue, the Middle East peace process, and the general situation in the international arena in light of the changes in the international relations and developments in Eastern Europe.

Mubarak on U.S. Stand on Soviet Jews

NC0603144090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1328 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA)—Following the official reception ceremony for Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak said that Israel will lose nothing by consenting to peace negotiations. The president said: On the contrary, Israel will benefit the most from a solution to the Palestinian problem. The president added: We ask Israel not to

hesitate in taking steps toward peace. This came in reponse to journalists' questions concerning the peace process. Asked if exchanges are under way with the United States in this regard, President Mubarak said that their exchanges are continuing with the United States and also with Israel.

In reply to a question on U.S. denunciation of settling Jewish immigrants in east Jerusalem, the president said that this has been the U.S. view since he met with U.S. President George Bush. The president added: I would like to note that the U.S. Administration is tackling the Palestinian issue very fairly. The president said: We all have to be fair. I salute the U.S. President and his secretary of state because they are actually acting reasonably, logically, and without bias.

African Democracy Seminar Opens in Cairo 5 Mar

NC0503084290

[Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0753 GMT on 5 March links up with Cairo Voice of the Arabs and local transmitters for a live relay from the National Democratic Party headquarters in Cairo of the opening session of a seminar on African development and the consolidation of democracy in Africa, held by the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties. At 0800 GMT, President Husni Mubarak enters the hall, accompanied by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, and an unidentified speaker opens the session. At 0803 GMT, Deputy Prime Minister Yusuf Wali speaks, saying that world changes make collective African action particularly important and that the seminar is taking place at a time when President Mubarak is chairman of the OAU. He stresses the importance of Egypt's role in African development.

At 0806 Senegalese President Diouf addresses the seminar. He speaks in French; an Arabic translation of his remarks is superimposed. After acknowledging the welcome he has received, Diouf says that Africa must prepare for the new century by achieving greater economic integration and mobilizing all its resources. He says that African countries must be alert to changes in the world. He hails the release of Nelson Mandela and calls for intensified efforts to end apartheid. He goes on to discuss the implications of democracy, stresses the importance of economic development, and calls on African governments to encourage greater participation by the people. Diouf ends his speech at 0828 GMT.

Mubarak Addresses Group

NC0503092890

[Editorial Report] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0829 GMT on 5 March continues its live relay of the opening session of the seminar on African development and the consolidation of democracy in Africa from the National Democratic Party headquarters in Cairo.

At 0830 GMT, Egyptian President Mubarak begins to speak. After welcoming the seminar participants, Mubarak stresses the importance of hard work in the effort to free African countries from the shackles that bind them. He says that what is true for countries in other parts of the world does not necessarily apply to Africa. He points out that development can best come about in conditions of freedom and says that all citizens must participate in the search for a solution. Political parties, he continues, have a duty to attend to those matters which constitute the priorities of the masses. Stating that emphasis on the importance of democracy and human rights is not a matter of slogans, he calls on the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties to unite their forces in the face of changing circumstances.

Mubarak goes on to express pleasure at the release of Mandela and urges the continuation of sanctions until complete freedom is attained for the people of South Africa. Calling for continued joint action to overcome the problems of Africa, Mubarak concludes his speech at 0845 GMT.

President Diouf thanks Mubarak for his remarks, and the session is then adjourned. The live relay ends at 0848 GMT.

Final Statement Issued

NC0603203290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The seminar on development and democracy in Africa, organized by the Association of African Socialist and Democratic Parties, issued a final statement at the conclusion of its two-day session in Cairo tonight. The statement contains an urgent appeal to the international community to end the massive migration of Soviet Jews to the occupied Palestinian territories. The seminar expressed its support for establishing a joint African market as a step to further African solidarity.

The statement says that discussions during the seminar underlined the importance of democracy for upholding human rights and for meeting the aspirations of African masses for development and freedom. The statement voices satisfaction over the release of African struggler Nelson Mandela, who has become a symbol of the African people's struggle for liberty and democracy. The statement also welcomes the imminent independence of Namibia. The seminar endorsed the call for joint action which President Husni Mubarak, as OAU chairman, addressed to all the antiapartheid movements in Africa.

Mubarak, Senegalese President Hold Talks 5 Mar

NC0503221490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak visited Senegalese President Abdou Diouf at the al-Tahirah Palace tonight. The two presidents held bilateral talks dealing with various African problems, particularly the situation between Senegal and Mauritania. The two presidents also discussed the situation in the Middle East

in light of recent developments and international changes. Earlier President Mubarak and his wife received the illustrious Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and his wife at the presidency in Heliopolis, and Mubarak hosted a dinner banquet in their honor.

Diouf Concludes Visit 7 Mar

NC0703112690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA)—Senegalese President and Mrs. Abdou Diouf left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a three-day visit to Egypt.

President and Mrs. Husni Mubarak saw them off at the airport.

Pakistani Envoy Notes Egyptian Role in Mediation

NC0603161090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador to Cairo has said that his country welcomes President Husni Mubarak's role in resolving the dispute between Pakistan and India. This came after a meeting between Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Pakistani ambassador this morning. Dr. 'Abd-al- Majid gave the ambassador a message for the Pakistani foreign minister as part of Egypt's efforts to resolve the dispute between Pakistan and India. Yesterday India asked President Mubarak to try to settle this dispute.

Indian Energy Minister Briefs Mubarak on Kashmir

NC0503130190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Indian Energy Minister Arif Mohammed Khan has described his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today as extremely fruitful.

He said that he delivered a special message from the Indian prime minister and an invitation to visit India at a date to be set by the president.

The Indian energy minister added that he briefed President Mubarak on India's views on the problem of Kashmir, which is regarded as part of Indian teritory. He noted that the new Indian Government has sought to improve relations with all India's neighbors, but the problem was caused by Pakistan because it supports terrorist activity in Kashmir.

The Indian minister said: We ask our mutual friends, especially Egypt, to use their strong ties with Pakistan to urge it to halt this activity. This will improve our relations, help resolve our bilateral disputes, and establish peace.

Indian Aviation Minister Meets With Mubarak

BK0603095590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Egypt has appreciated India's stand on Jammu and Kashmir and favored the idea of resolving the issue on a bilateral basis. Egypt's position was conveyed to the visiting civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, during an hour-long meeting with the Egyptian president, Mr. Husni Mubarak, in Cairo yesterday. Mr. Khan has also urged Cairo to impress upon Pakistan the need to resolve the issue bilaterally rather than raising it in various fora. Reiterating India's stand to settle the Kashmir issue in accordance with the Simla agreement, Mr. Khan informed the Egyptian president of India's willingness to resolve the differences, if any, with Pakistan through talks and negotiations. He said it is, however, imperative to create a proper atmosphere for such talks. There can be no meaningful negotiations if Pakistan continues to patronize and support the subversives in Kashmir, he added.

Mr. Khan also handed over a message from the prime minister, Mr Singh, to the Egyptian president.

USSR Envoy Leaves To Prepare for Mubarak Visit

JN0603163190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Mar 90 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev left Cairo yesterday with a special message from President Husni Mubarak to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message concerns bilateral relations and the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and their settlement in the occupied Arab territories.

Informed Egyptian diplomatic sources said the ambassador will prepare for President Mubarak's expected visit to the USSR. Last week, it was decided to postpone the visit to ensure proper preparations and to give President Mubarak more time for consultations with Arab leaders on Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied territories.

The sources said that economic experts in both countries have completed the agreements to be signed during President Mubarak's visit. These include an agreement for joint cooperation until the year 2000 and a five-year, long-term economic and trade agreement worth 5 billion accounting sterling pounds or 15 billion Egyptian pounds.

In another development, Egypt through its ambassador in Washington, 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, has asked the U.S. Administration to reply quickly to President Mubarak's letter to U.S. President George Bush on the settlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. Egypt sought recently to convince the U.S. Administration to abolish restrictions on the immigration of Soviet Jews to the United States.

'Relative Calm' in Abu Qurqas Following Riots

JN0603185490 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Mar 90 pp 1, 6

[By Hamdi Shafiq in al-Minya]

[Text] Two days after the unrest in Abu Qurqas in al-Minya, a cautious, relative calm prevailed in the city yesterday. Supported by armored vehicles and Central Security trucks, large numbers of security forces, criminal investigation police, and national security investigators besieged the city. Guards posted to government buildings and facilities, places of worship, and houses in the scene of Friday unrest were reinforced.

Interior Minister Major General 'Abd-al-Halim Musa received detailed report from al-Minya security director Major General Mahir Hasan on the incidents. General Prosecutor Chancellor Jamal Shuman is closely following the results of the investigations by the Abu Qurqas prosecution.

Most of the accused denied charges brought against them by the security organs; they stressed they were in their houses when they were apprehended. They said they did not take part in the violence that erupted in the city after Friday prayers. The prosecution accused 12 people of assembly, vandalism, and arson, and ordered that they be remanded in custody. Twenty five people were ordered free.

The prosecution also ordered the imprisonment of 11 people charged with kidnapping two young men whom they accused of some deviant behavior. Security sources stressed that another group of people from the city suspected of taking part in the riots was apprehended. These people are being interrogated, and those proved to be involved will be referred to general prosecution. The incidents took place after some provocative leaflets had been circulated. The leaflets claimed that some young men had been engaged in indecent acts with some girls and that video shots of these girls in indecent positions had been taken. The security organs denied these claims.

Cabinet Discusses Peace Efforts, Arab Cooperation

NC0403200390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1849 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Tonight at a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the cabinet discussed developments in Middle East peace efforts and contacts with all parties concerned in light of a report by 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated this after the two-hour cabinet meeting. The information minister said that the report referred to the results of the Arab Cooperation Council summit meetings in Amman and the agreements signed there to strengthen cooperation among the council member states.

The cabinet also reviewed a number of issues pertaining to developing bilateral relations with Arab countries in light of the upcoming joint Egyptian-Saudi committee meeting, the results of the foreign minister's visit to Saudi Arabia, and the preparations being made for the Tunisian president's visit to Egypt on 6 March.

The information minister said that the report also referred to the development of Egyptian-Libyan relations in light of the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, during his recent visit to Egypt.

The report also dealt with exchanging ambassadors between Egypt and Syria, the status of a number of development projects between Egypt and each of the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, and joint Egyptian-Sudanese endeavors in agricultural cooperation within the framework of what was agreed upon during Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir's recent visit to Egypt.

The information minister added that the cabinet also discussed a report on economic and social development projects implemented from July to December 1989—that is, in the first half of the current fiscal year. [passage omitted]

Sidqi Rejects Deputy's Charges on Corruption

NC0603055990 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 0240 6 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has asserted that the government does not cover up any form of corruption, that all members of the People's Assembly and all citizens have the right to inform the minister concerned about any deviation, and that immediate measures will be taken.

Responding to a question from Deputy 'Alawi Hafiz of the New Wafd Party, the prime minister emphasized the existence of press freedom and denied a media blackout on any issue.

The deputy had submitted a question accusing a number of officials of accumulating illegal gains and committing financial violations. He claimed that half this amount is enough to pay Egypt's debts.

In his reply, Dr. Sidqi pointed out that although foodstuffs arriving in Egypt are accompanied by a certificate from the exporter guaranteeing that they are free from radioactivity, the foodstuffs are reexamined by Egyptian authorities. The prime minister warned against distorting facts, creating anxiety, and making allegations without proof. He stressed that the government referred all [word indistinct] cases to the public prosecutor.

The prime minister pointed out that a deputy has no right to accuse the public prosecutor's office because this is an independent authority as stipulated by the Constitution.

Egypt Selected To Chair Islamic Development Bank

NC0303092990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0804 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Finance Minister Dr. Ahmad al-Razzaz returned to Cairo from Algiers this morning. During his stay there, he took part in the fourth annual meeting of the governors of the Islamic Development Bank from 28 February to 1 March.

He disclosed that the conferees' most important unanimous resolution was to choose Egypt as chairman of the Islamic Development Bank's Board of Governors during its new session which started yesterday and lasts for one year. He added that Egypt was also selected chairman of the procedural committee which oversees the bank's organizational work during this session. [passage omitted]

'Trade Blockade' by Major Countries Said Worsening

JN0603172790 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 5 Mar 90 p 1

[By Jamal Shawqi]

[Text] The intensity of the trade blockade against Egypt has heightened. The Egyptian Government's attempts to convince the big countries to reverse their decisions freezing guarantees for banks and exporters' facilities and for government deals have failed. The big countries have also refused to implement economic and trade protocols, which have been in the freezer for months. Informed economic sources have stressed that the economic blockade has brought foreign trade and the arrival of machinery and commodities to Egypt nearly to a standstill. The sources pointed out that more than 15 big countries have stopped their banking and trade assistance to Egypt and that the Egyptian Government is making extensive efforts to get some countries and foreign financial institutions to ensure the implementation of deals and the influx of commodities into Egypt. The sources expect the trade blockade to continue until the end of April, when an agreement to reschedule Egypt's debts due big creditor nations is signed.

AL-WAFD has learned that the government will hold new negotiations this week in an attempt to end the freeze of guarantees for some commercial deals and shipments of foodstuffs and raw materials.

Crude Oil Prices Cut 60 Cents Per Barrel

JN0303151290 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Mar 90 p 6

[Text] The Egyptian Petroleum Authority has decided to cut Egyptian crude oil prices by 60 cents a barrel. Hammad Ayyub, deputy president of the authority for foreign trade, gave the following breakdown, effective from today:

Suez Gulf crude $17 per barrel
Bala'im crude $16.5 per barrel
Ra's Badran crude $15 per barrel
Ra's Gharib crude $14.7 per barrel

Sudan

'Arafat Meets Al-Bashir, Speaks on Emigration

JN0303183890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, met with Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, and the brother members of the Council in Khartoum the day before yesterday. Following the meeting, brother president Abu-'Ammar made the following statement:

I was pleased to meet with my brother Lt. Gen. Al-Bashir, whom I respect. I extend to my brothers and people in fraternal Sudan affectionate greetings. I pledge to continue together until we liberate Jerusalem, God willing. Undoubtedly, the serious issue currently facing the Arab nation is Jewish emigration. Two million Jews are expected to emigrate up to the end of this century, be it from the USSR or other Eastern European states. This is a new conspiracy against our Arab nation. We are not against any individual's movement from one place to another. However, human rights and freedom stop where others' rights and freedom begin. These Jews will come to inhabit our land and Palestinian and Arab homes.

If 3.5 million Jews are occupying all of Palestine and parts of Syria and Lebanon, then these new immigrants will create further expansion to establish what they call Greater Israel, whose border extends from the Nile to the Euphrates, exactly as it is printed on the Israeli agora. The 10-agora piece carries Israel's map. In light of these developments, we have called for an urgent meeting of the Arab foreign ministers. This meeting will be held on 10-12 March. After this meeting, the Arab foreign ministers will leave for the UN Security Council, because we called for a UN Security Council meeting to discuss the emigration. As an Arab nation, along with all our honest friends in the world, we should confront this emigration that poses a threat to us and to the future of our children. As you see, there has recently been a criminal escalation against our children, women, people. The 372 martyrs and wounded who recently fell in the Rafah and Gaza areas prove that Israel is criminally determined to perpetrate more massacres against our people. I would like to ask the whole world, particularly the U.S. Administration, which is bragging about human rights and freedom: Why does this freedom stop when we talk about the Palestinian people's freedom? Are not crimes against the Palestinian people considered crimes against human rights, and even against mankind in general?

Official on Western, Israeli Support for Garang

JN0503120090 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Doha—Major General 'Uthman Muhammad al-Hasan, Sudanese minister of state for defense, has affirmed that some Western countries and the Zionist entity provide the rebel movement led by John Garang in Southern Sudan with large military support. He added that his country's government has categorical proof of this support. He noted that the rebels received Eastern weapons through Western countries and that Israeli military experts are working with the rebels. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, the Sudanese minister of state for defense said: The rebel movement has now become a weapon in the hands of foreign countries that are hostile to Sudan whose present objective is to exhaust the Armed Forces morally and materially, and then to destroy Sudan.

SPLA, National Democratic Alliance Meet

EA0703072890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Representatives of SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement-Army] and a representative of the National Democratic Alliance have held a meeting in Addis Ababa on 4 March 1990. The agenda of the meeting that lasted for five hours was the prevailing political situation in the country and the necessity of working hard to unite the Sudanese forces of opposition to overthrow the junta of the National Islamic Front. The meeting also stressed the importance of retaining democracy and prevalence of permanent peace in the Sudan.

The meeting was dominated by a spirit of seriousness and understanding between the two sides and the spirit of national responsibility for cooperation, and the removal of the dictatorial and facist system. From the SPLM-SPLA side, the meeting was attended by Commander Martin Manyiel Ayuwal, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command; Dr. Mansur Khalid; and Alternate Commander Deng Alor Kuol. The meeting ended with positive outcomes.

SPLA Says Government Convoy 'Destroyed'

EA0603103590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Listeners, greetings to you all. You will all have heard that the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] destroyed the convoy sent from Khartoum to relieve the soldiers in Juba, Yei and Lanya, but a few days ago, 'Umar al-Bashir's junta claimed that the SPLA had not destroyed it. Well, we haven't much to say about this except that the Sudanese people themselves should ask 'Umar al-Bashir or the Juba military commander where all the vehicles and tanks are. Where were they left? If, as claimed, these troops of the so-called Jundi al-Watan al-Wahid [soldier of the single homeland] convoy arrived in Juba, what route did they take to get to Juba?

What we know to be a fact is that we destroyed the entire convoy, seizing or destroying its vehicles. Those who the regime claimed to have arrived in Juba are probably those few who escaped the ambush. We estimate that between 200 and 300 out of 3,000 troops arrived in Juba. 'Umar al-Bashir should take the Sudanese people where the other soldiers and vehicles are.

We assure 'Umar al-Bashir that his vows to recapture the SPLA-controlled areas and annihilate the SPLA are daydreams. He will now have to reconsider his ideas, for they will take him nowhere. He cannot resist our gallant SPLA forces. If we say no convoy can reach Juba, we are definitely telling the truth. It is now nearly seven years since any convoy ever managed to reach Juba from Khartoum. [passage omitted]

No convoy will ever reach Juba from Malakal. We warned the members of the convoy to return to Malakal but they did not heed our warning. They believed they could reach Juba. However, we are sure we have destroyed them, and the crisis that faces the troops in Juba, Lanya, and Yei, still remains.

We here once again call on the troops in Juba, Lanya, and Yei to heed this warning from the commander of the "Bright Star Campaign." I repeat: The soldiers in Juba, Yei and those in western Equatoria areas must heed this warning as a matter of urgency. [passage omitted]

This war waged by the SPLA is not aimed at creating peace in the country by force. If the junta in Khartoum feels that they and the SPLA should not sit down to reach an agreement, we certainly cannot force them, but then the war will have to go ahead. However, if they decide that the SPLA and their regime should disengage and talk, well, that is what we in the SPLA want. Only dialogue can stop the death of our people. Only dialogue can solve all the past mistakes. But so long as there is someone who wants to impose his ideas on the people, there can be no peace in Sudan.

More on Ambushed Convoy

EA0703073490 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] conducts a very successful ambush in western Equatoria.

SPLA forces of the "Bright Star Campaign Phase 3" on 3 March 1990 ambushed the so-called Al-Fida'i [commando] convoy between Bungu and Juba, on the Juba-Yei road. This is the fifth convoy Juba has sent in an effort to rescue Yei. None of these convoys have so far reached Yei. In the ambush, the enemy left behind 41 dead bodies and an unknown number of wounded. The

Al-Fida'i convoy, like those before it, is stranded and demoralized on the Yei road

Tunisia

National Charter Council Meeting Concludes

LD0303171790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 2 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Supreme Council of the National Charter's second meeting which began at around 1600 yesterday afternoon at the government palace in Kasbah in an extraordinary session under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Hamed Karoui has ended. The following political parties and national organizations were represented at the session: the Democratic Constitutional Rally, the Popular Unity Party, the Social Party of Progress, the Socialist Progressive Rally, the Unionist Democratic Federation, the Tunisian Trade Union Federation, the Tunisian Industry and Trade Federation, the National Federation of Farmers, and the National Union of Tunisian Women.

The meeting studied a draft law on amendments to the electoral chart rules concerning municipal elections. At the beginning of the session, the prime minister recalled the president's statement on the second anniversary of the 7th November change, in which he announced that wherever suitable conditions and circumstances were available he would develop laws pertaining to the organization of political activities. He said that the council's second meeting constituted a follow-up of the agreement that resulted from the first meeting on reviewing the educational system, electoral laws and information; recommendations which had gained the head of state's approval.

The council noted the importance of the resolutions passed on amendments to electoral rules. After a deep study and an open and objective discussion which encompassed all spheres of the draft law, the participants put forward proposals and amendments aimed at ensuring the stability of institutions and the representation of parties and trends. These focused on ways of allocating seats to the nomination lists, and the question of nominations as stipulated in the electoral chart, according to the rules of the constitution and the law. There were other recommendations which the council proposed to submit to the president. It was also agreed that the council would hold another meeting to which all the signatories of the national charter would be invited. [passage omitted]

Transport Minister in Turkey for Maritime Talks

WA0603132090

For reportage on the visit of Transport Minister Ahmed Smaoui to Turkey, including reports on his talks with Turkey's Transportation Minister Cengiz Tuncer, please see the Turkey section of the 6 March West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Kuwait

Egypt's Al-Baz Arrives, Makes Statement

NC0503223090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Mar (MENA)—Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has emphasized the strength of Egyptian-Palestinian relations. He described them as relations of solidarity and affiliation to one family and one entity.

In a statement he made after arriving in Kuwait tonight for a two-day official visit, Dr. al-Baz denied the Israeli tourist bus incident or recent incidents in Egypt have affected Egyptian-Palestinian relations. He explained these incidents do not concern the PLO at all, and that the PLO has no connection whatsoever with these incidents.

Regarding Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt, Al-Baz said: President 'Arafat can visit Egypt any time, and we welcome him. He pointed out 'Arafat does not hesitate to visit Egypt when it is necessary, saying: We welcome him into his own country and homeland.

Concerning Jewish immigration to the occupied territories, Dr. al-Baz said Egypt is discussing this with the Arab countries objectively, logically, and with great interest because of its grave consequences for the Arabs' future. Dr. al-Baz explained this issue will be one of the important topics he will discuss with the Kuwaiti officials during his visit. He pointed out President Husni Mubarak has sent a message regarding this to the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Referring to Egypt's stand on efforts to convene an Arab summit, the director of the President's Office for Political Affairs said the leaders of the Arab states will decide on this issue, and that it calls for comprehensive Arab consultation.

In his statement, Al-Baz denied there were any political motives behind the recent incidents in Egypt, such as the Israeli tourist bus and the Sheraton Heliopolis fire.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out he will convey an oral message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother the amir of Kuwait as part of the consultations and cooperation between the leaders of Egypt and Kuwait.

Holds Talks on Ties, Mideast

LD0603163290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1311 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's top aide 'Usamah al-Baz was busy here Tuesday meeting Kuwaiti leaders and discussing with them the Mideast peace process, the Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and other regional and international matters.

Al-Baz, head of President Mubarak's office and foreign under-secretary, was granted an audience this morning with His Highness the amir and relayed to him a message from Mubarak on developments in the Arab world, bilteral relations and international issues, he told reporters.

The Egyptian official, who arrived here last night, also met Tuesday with H.H. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-Usuaymi.

After the series of meetings, Al-Baz said in a statement Kuwaiti-Egyptian ties were an example of how relations should be between Arab countries, and he paid special tribute to Kuwait's support for Egypt under all conditions.

He added that Cairo and Kuwait were consistently coordinating on key issues and developments in the best interests of the Arab nation.

Al-Baz made reference to his discussions with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on the Palestinian question and diplomatic efforts by Cairo and other parties to push forward the Mideast peace process.

Later Al-Osseimi entertained the Egyptian official to a lunch banquet while a dinner in honor of Al-Baz will be hosted tonight by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin.

Al-Baz will meet Shahin again Wednesday and deliver a lecture at the Foreign Ministry to junior Kuwaiti diplomats.

Foreign Minister Warns of Soviet Jewish 'Influx'

LD0603161190 Kuwait KUNA in English 1216 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on Tuesday warned that the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine was posing a threat to world security and not only to the future of region.

The issue, he said, must be thoroughly and attentively discussed in the coming Arab conferences as the Arab world must come up with a common stance on the emigration and the perils it entails.

The Kuwaiti official made the remarks while talking to reporters after meeting Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's top aide Ossamah al-Baz [spelling as received], who arrived here last night in a previously unannounced visit.

Shaykh Sabah said he discussed with Al-Baz the Jewish emigration and Israel's plans to settle immigrants in Arab territories occupied by Israel.

The talks also dealt with Egypt's efforts to push forward the Middle East peace process and U.S. proposals for bringing Palestinians and Israelis to direct dialogue that will be hosted by Cairo, he added.

Israel has provided the key stumbling block to the proposed dialogue by insisting that Palestinians of East Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organization be excluded from the talks.

Saudi Arabia

King Sends Message to North Yemen President

LD0603143990 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to his brother, His Excellency Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers and acting minister of information, delivered the message during President Salih's reception for him today in Sanaa. Sanaa Radio said the message concerns the brotherly relations and bilateral issues. [passage omitted]

Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Yemeni Consultative Council; the Kingdom's ambassador in Sanaa; and a representative of the Protocols Department of the Presidency of the Republic welcomed Mas'ud when he arrived at the airport in Sanaa earlier today on a short visit to the YAR.

In a statement carried by the Yemeni news agency, SABA', Mas'ud pointed out he will convey during the visit a message from the King Fahd to his brother, President Salih, within the framework of coordination and consultation between the leaderships of the two countries on bilateral, regional and international issues of concern to the Arab and Islamic worlds.

He added that last week's visit by the YAR president to the Kingdom and his audience with King Fahd fall within the course of bilateral relations and the continuing coordination and consultation between the two leaderships for the good and benefit of the two fraternal countries and peoples.

United Arab Emirates

Bhutto's Envoy Arrives With Message for Zayid

JN0603123690 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Dr. Nasir Ahmad Shaykh, personal assistant and envoy of the Pakistani prime minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi today on a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

The Pakistani envoy is carrying a message from Pakisatni Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE.

Yemen Arab Republic

Saudi Official Arrives 6 Mar, Makes Statement

JN0603132890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers in the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Sanaa this morning.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, Mas'ud said his visit comes within the framework of continuing coordination and consultation between the two countries on all bilateral, Arab, Islamic, and international levels. The following received him: brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Ibn-Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council and member of the Standing Committee; a representative of the Presidential Protocol Department; and brother 'Ali al-Qufaydi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa.

Delivers Message, Departs

JN0603190590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, left Sanaa this afternoon after a short visit, during which he conveyed a message to brother President leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The message deals with bilateral relations, as well as Arab, Islamic, and international developments.

In a statement to SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the Saudi official said his meeting with the brother president leader was constructive and achieved good results in the interest of the two neighborly peoples and countries.

The Saudi official was seen off by Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, member of the Consultative Council and the Standing Committee; a representative of the Presidential Protocol Department; and Brother 'Ali al-Qufaydi, ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Sanaa.

Sharon on PLO Recognition, Jerusalem Partition

TA0603130990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Telephone interview with Likud Knesset Member [MK] Ariel Sharon, a member of the constraints camp, by political correspondent Arye Golan and anchorman Roni Daniyel—live]

[Text] [Daniyel] Good afternoon, sir. What exactly did you want to say?

[Sharon] I wanted to explain that even following lengthy hours of debate, the questions at hand remain unanswered: Will deportees participate in the delegation to Cairo—yes or no? Will Palestinians who have another address in Jerusalem participate in the delegation, or will they not? These are the immediate questions. The campaign of misleading the public unfortunately continues. The very fact we will go to talks in Cairo with deportees and East Jerusalem Palestinians already contains the basic elements of the beginning of negotiations on Jerusalem, which will—following the repartitioning of the city for security reasons, and that division already exists—lead also to political partitioning and a de facto recognition of the PLO; and let us not forget that the deportees are its emissaries who called for acts of terrorism and murder, which is why they were expelled.

[Daniyel] MK Sharon, if I were not familiar with your views and your place on the political map, I easily could think perhaps you belonged to the Alignment, because it, too, says exactly what you have just said.

[Sharon] Look, I think the very decision to choose this path, opting to discuss the Alignment at this point in time, is a two-penny trick. Right now what we must discuss is the future of Jerusalem. The expressions that have emanated from the U.S. Administration on the matter during the past few days merely serve to indicate how great that danger is. It is necessary to understand the deportees, after all, were behind the horrible attack on the bus traveling to Cairo, for example. That is why I think that in reaching their decision yesterday, by refraining from providing an unequivocal answer to the current issues, the Likud paved the way for undermining our sovereignty over Jerusalem and for recognition of the PLO. I think it is a great pity the Likud ministers did that, instead of halting the process and rejecting out of hand the demands raised by the U.S. secretary of state regarding the deportees and the East Jerusalem Arabs.

[Daniyel] Will the Likud Central Committee convene in the next few days to discuss these issues?

[Sharon] I approached the prime minister once again in writing. I hope the prime minister will understand this is a serious issue, not something that has to do with manipulation of any sort or one or another promise by the Alignment. Is this the issue at hand at the moment? The main issue now is Jerusalem's fate is at stake, while we deal with irrelevancies. I still await the response of the prime minister, who failed to respond to my first appeal. I approached him again in the most respectful way, and I am waiting for his answer. If this does not come, we will have to decide what measures to take, because I am convinced the prime minister does not enjoy a majority either in the Likud or in its Central Committee for forsaking Jerusalem, including deportees in the delegation, or including Arabs who reside in East Jerusalem.

[Daniyel] Thank you very much, sir. We are unable to pursue this interview because we are running out of time.

Labor Ministers Demand 'Positive' Response

TA0603144490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The Inner Cabinet must convene tomorrow and a positive response to U.S. Secretary of State Baker's peace initiative must be given. This was the unanimous resolution adopted by the Alignment ministers during their meeting this afternoon at the Finance Minister's Office in Tel Aviv.

The demand was conveyed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

Further on Alignment Decision

TA0603162090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[By Yitzhaq Ro'e and Li'ora Nir—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] As soon as the Likud hit the ball into the Alignment's court, the Alignment hastened to hit it back to the Likud. Shortly after convening this afternoon, the Alignment ministers reached their decision, one that sounds more unequivocal than all previous ones. The gist of their decision was: The Inner Cabinet must meet and make a decision tomorrow. Peres already has phoned Shamir to inform him of the decision, and Shamir agreed to convene the Inner Cabinet tomorrow to make a decision.

As for the conditions posed by the Likud ministers, the Alignment categorically rejects them. The decision of the Alignment ministers was formulated jointly by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin. We now will go over to our correspondent Yaron Deqel in the broadcasting van outside the Finance Ministry building in Jerusalem to hear his report:

[Deqel] Indeed, the cliche sounds quite apt this afternoon: The Alignment ministers are hitting the ball back into the court of the Likud and its leader, Yitzhaq Shamir. After a very brief session of less than 30 minutes, they decided a debate and a decision must be conducted tomorrow. Peres and Rabin presented a unanimous position in the meeting, after an earlier tete-a-tete.

Peres opened the session by proposing a decision be made on three points: 1) The Inner Cabinet should

decide tomorrow on a response to James Baker's two questions; 2) The Alignment categorically rejects the Likud's demands; 3) As for continuation of the process, the Alignment will make a decision after the Inner Cabinet session.

At this point, the defense minister produced a typed document including five points, which made the ministers realize Peres and Rabin had thoroughly coordinated their positions. The Alignment ministers unanimously endorsed the document demanding an Inner Cabinet decision tomorrow on the two questions posed by the U.S. secretary of state.

[Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 6 March reports the Alignment's five-point resolution as follows: "1) Israel will continue the process according to the Israeli Government's resolution of 14 May 1989; 2) The status of Jerusalem as the sovereign and indivisible capital of the State of Israel is not an issue for discussion, and a decision on this already was made in 1967 when Levi Eshkol was prime minister; 3) According to the government's basic guidelines, israel will not negotiate with the PLO; 4) The Labor Party ministers demand the convening of the Inner Cabinet tomorrow; 5) The Alignment ministers catagorically reject any attempt by the Likud ministers to make the adoption of a resolution conditional on demands that deviate from the text of the Israeli Government's initiative as agreed upon on 14 May 1989."]

At the end of the meeting, Shim'on Peres proceeded to face the press, and foreign correspondents in particular.

[Begin recording] [Peres] We insist the Inner Cabinet should convene tomorrow morning to discuss and decide on a reply to both parts of the question posed to us by the U.S. secretary of state: the question of principle and the inference from that principle. We do not intend to enter negotiations with the Likud under any circumstances about inter-party arrangements. There is no need for that. We have the government's basic guidelines, and that is enough.

[Deqel] Will you agree to wait another week for a decision?

[Peres] Why? What for?

[Deqel] In other words, there must be a vote tomorrow.

[Peres] We demand a decision and a vote tomorrow.

[Deqel] Sir, if no decision is made tomorrow, what does that mean as far as the Labor Party is concerned?

[Peres] The Labor Party Bureau is scheduled to meet on Thursday and I am sure, once again, we will draw unanimous conclusions.

[Deqel] No less, and perhaps even more unequivocal, was Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] I see an urgent need to conduct a meeting of the Inner Cabinet to make a decision.

[Deqel] Tomorrow?

[Rabin] Is there any reason now to put it off? Up to this point they said the Likud ministers had not completed their deliberations. Now they have made a decision. So, let us convene, conduct a debate, and do what the Inner Cabinet must do: that is, make a decision.

[Deqel] What if the prime minister asked to put off the decision for another week? Will you not agree?

[Rabin] I will not agree. At this point, there is no reason to put off a decision.

[Deqel] If the Inner Cabinet were to tell Baker no, would this spell the end of the unity government?

[Rabin] Let us wait and see what the Inner Cabinet decides. At the same time, we categorically reject the conditions posed by the Likud. First of all, when it comes to Jerusalem, I suggest we take a good look at the Likud ministers, those who convened in the Prime Minister's Office, and the Labor Party ministers who convened here and answered the question on which one of the two groups contributed more to the liberation and unification of Jerusalem in Israel's wars. The answer is the majority is gathered here, not there. No one, therefore, should tell us what the unity of Jerusalem is all about.

[Deqel] Rabin went on to address the question of the PLO mentioned in the Likud ministers' decision, and one can detect from his words that he definitely is not pleased with it.

[Rabin] We so far have worked according to the government initiative the Cabinet formulated. The demands the Likud ministers raised are new and offensive, certainly to people like me and my friends.

As for the PLO, only one government has made an agreement with the PLO so far, and that was a Likud government in 1981. So before blaming other people for wanting to negotiate with the PLO, they had better remember that they—this was a Likud-led government—were the ones who made an agreement with the PLO. [end recording]

[Deqel] As the ministers started to leave, Vice Prime Minister Peres phoned Prime Minister Shamir to inform him of the Alignment ministers' decision. Shamir replied the Inner Cabinet would discuss the response to the U.S. secretary of state tomorrow, but he did not promise a decision would be made.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 6 March adds that in the meeting "Minister Rabin proposed the Alignment ministers who are Inner Cabinet members refuse to attend tomorrow's session if the prime minister refuses to discuss the Alignment's demands. Our party affairs correspondent, Shlomo Raz, adds the Alignment ministers also decided Mr. Peres

should get from Foreign Minister Arens the exact text of U.S. Secretary of State Baker's questions, and only their exact wording should appear in the draft resolution of the Alignment ministers, which will be presented in tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session."]

Now that the Likud and the Alignment have made a decision, everything is ready for the Inner Cabinet session, scheduled for 0900 tomorrow at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem.

[Nir] Yaron, let me ask you another question: Minister Rabin abstained from giving a clear-cut answer to the possibility the government may be disbanded tomorrow, or on any other timetable. Could you discern the tendencies of the ministers or whether they have made a decision?

[Deqel] Peres did not give a clear-cut answer either, but we know that on Thursday, the day after the Inner Cabinet session, the Labor Party Bureau will convene and, the following Thursday, the Labor Party Central Committee is scheduled to convene. The latter has the authority to decide on bolting the government. If the Inner Cabinet fails to make a decision tomorrow, Shim'on Peres will announce in the Labor Party Bureau meeting he recommends disbanding the unity government the next week. But, as we noted, we should wait and see how things develop in tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session.

Arens on Labor Decision

TA0603164390 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew
1500 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Rafi Reshef on the "Erev Hadash" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Reshef] Good evening, Foreign Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Reshef] I imagine you have not yet had time to be apprised of the decision adopted by the Labor Party ministers?

[Arens] I heard your own news report just now.

[Reshef] So let me give you the details because I have the text of the decision. [passage omitted]

These are the five points. Mr. Arens, does this constitute a breakthrough?

[Arens] I am afraid this still is not the case. I hope there will be a breakthrough. I believe it can be considered good news that the Alignment, just like the Likud, stands adamant on the sovereignty of Jerusalem and opposes any negotiations with the PLO. I would not have expected anything else; these are government decisions and are included among the government's basic guidelines. The Labor Party decision, however, ignores the problems involved in implementing these principles when launching contacts with a Palestinian delegation. Clearly, the Israeli delegation must express one unified position at these talks. When discussing the issue of Jerusalem, the question of whether the Arab residents of Jerusalem should or should not participate in the elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will undoubtedly be raised.

[Reshef] Well, no one can dispute the fact this constraint is not addressed in the text of the resolution I just read....

[Arens, interrupting] But I believe anyone would agree the Israeli delegation will have to address this issue and deliver one, not two, responses.

[Reshef] But now you are giving me the broad perspective. I am concerned with tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session. Assuming the Labor Party ministers reiterate their decision tomorrow, then the Likud—if I am not mistaken—will have to tell Baker no?

[Arens] I think there is no room for ultimatums. I think it was Prime Minister Shamir who said good decisions are preferable to hasty ones. Ultimatums can be delivered by enemies, not by friends, not even by political rivals. This is not the way to enable us to efficiently handle the political contacts we face while protecting the interests of Israel and guaranteeing Jerusalem's continued sovereignty within Israel.

[Reshef] I beg your pardon, but there is no problem of ultimatums here. To the best of my knowledge, Yitzhaq Shamir already has informed Shim'on Peres the Inner Cabinet will discuss the issue. The Labor Party has rejected your two constraints, which means you will vote against accepting the Baker proposals—am I right?

[Arens] I am not ready to tell you what will be discussed tomorrow in the Inner Cabinet. I have not yet received an invitation to the Inner Cabinet session, and I do not know how the vote will be taken. I hope the Labor ministers understand if they wish to safeguard the wholeness of Jerusalem, the Israeli delegation will have to announce Israel objects to Arabs from Jerusalem participating in the elections. I simply cannot understand this position—if such a position indeed exists—taken by the Alignment. Why do they want the Arab population [of Jerusalem] to take part in the elections? After all, they understand it endangers the status of Jerusalem. It cannot be good for us.

[Reshef] Yes, but did you estimate the response to the U.S. query would include two constraints on the Labor Party, or did you believe it would be accepted in the original Baker formulation of the overt and covert questions?

[Arens] I must say I did not exactly understand your question.

[Reshef] I simply am asking whether you thought the constraints on the Labor Party decided upon yesterday would be necessary in responding to the Baker query,

which included the overt and covert questions, or whether you believed the original version would be unanimously accepted.

[Arens] I had no doubt whatsoever agreement with our partners in the government regarding our positions in the dialogue was necessary before taking a single step toward the Cairo talks.

[Reshef] Yes, but you always had been careful to differentiate, even if just as a tactical move, between Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres, and here, by not including the Arab residents of East Jerusalem, you actually have imposed constraints on the both of them. Yitzhaq Rabin has declared, at the Labor Party Central Committee convention and in various other public forums, that he believes East Jerusalem residents should be permitted to vote, but not elected. Was this not at least a tactical mistake?

[Arens] The issue we are discussing is not our attitude toward this or that individual. This is an issue of great importance, and I believe all Israelis—I am not talking only about residents of Jerusalem or residents of Gilo, Ramot Eshkol, or Ramot—understand if Israel agrees to include the Arab population of Jerusalem in the elections, we would be facing the redivision of Jerusalem.

[Reshef] Mr. Arens, you certainly are worried about the future of the country, at least as much as we all are. Do you not fear that by taking this step, you may lose the leadership of the government in favor of a narrow-based government headed by Shim'on Peres?

[Arens] I do not believe other parties ...[changes thought]... I also think many members of the Alignment would lend a hand—perhaps inadvertently, I am sure, inadvertently—to endangering the status of Israel in Jerusalem.

[Reshef] Let us return to tomorrow's meeting. If I understand you correctly, what you are saying is there is no rush, and you do not expect a conclusive resolution to be made at tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session.

[Arens] I hope we will be able to finalize matters with the Labor ministers on the positions to be expressed by the Israeli delegation in Cairo. I think the Labor Party also will understand that without an agreement on these positions, any launching of the Cairo dialogue is impossible.

[Reshef] Thank you, Minister Arens.

Rabin on Labor Move, Peace Plan

TA0603202490 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Goren] Good evening, sir.

[Rabin] Good evening.

[Goren] Mr. Rabin, will tomorrow really be the moment of truth in your partnership with the Likud?

[Rabin] Let us have a look at what is up for discussion and a vote by the Inner Cabinet tomorrow. The questions, or rather the question and the interpretation the U.S. secretary of state conveyed to Minister Arens—and, as was reported in the media, Minister Arens helped word the question—are simple and clear. A positive response to these questions will enable the trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers to take place, the composition of the Palestinian delegation to be decided, and a meeting in Cairo, whose main test will be whether it leads to elections in the territories, to go forward.

The Likud, according to the decision made last night by its ministers, is trying to use the ultimatum or constraints posed to the Alignment as an excuse not to give the United States a response. What we propose to do in tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session is simple: Let us give a response to the question and the attendant interpretation the United States submitted to us. If the Likud has new proposals not included in the resolutions made so far by the Cabinet and Inner Cabinet, let it submit them to the Inner Cabinet for a debate and decision. But let us differentiate between the response to the United States in order to proceed with the process, lest it get stuck, and new questions raised by the Likud that were not mentioned before and are not included in the resolutions made so far by the Cabinet and Inner Cabinet.

[Goren] Mr. Rabin, is the Likud right in its demand and condition regarding Jerusalem?

[Rabin] As I said before, neither Minister Arens nor Minister Nisim will teach me, Hayim Bar-Lev, 'Ezer Weizman, or Mordekhay Gur what it is to be responsible for the liberation and unification of Jerusalem. They have no right to doubt us and our loyalty to a united and sovereign Jerusalem. I consider their attempt to cast doubts on us to be chutzpah and offensive. We contributed more than they did to achieving what we did, both in the Independence War and in the Six-Day War. We will take care, no less than they, of the integrity and sovereignty of Israel and a united Jerusalem without hampering the chances of advancing the peace process.

[Goren] Mr. Rabin, do you not see any logic in the Likud's position of not giving the PLO any chance to get close to the political process?

[Rabin] Look, we have the government's basic guidelines, the Cabinet resolution on the peace initiative, and the Inner Cabinet resolution of 5 November 1989 in response to Baker's five points, in which it clearly is stated that we will not negotiate with the PLO. What are they trying to do now? To nitpick about what will happen if someone says something? Suppose the PLO in Tunis were to declare tomorrow they authorized the delegation? I say as long as the delegation continues to negotiate with us to bring about elections, and as long as they do not say they are a delegation on behalf of the

PLO ... [changes thought] What then? Should we consequently give the PLO the right to veto the entire peace process? Should we terminate the negotiations and pack it up the moment a PLO man whispers something in Tunis? Where is the logic in that?

[Goren] If so, as your associates say today, does this lead to the conclusion the prime minister deceived even you?

[Rabin] I do not accept that statement. There was no deception on the part of anyone. The Likud ministers made their decision, which is binding on them. I reiterate the only way to promote the peace process is, following tomorrow's debate and decision, to give a positive response to the official text of the question—which, according to the media, Minister Arens boasted of having helped draft—and the attendant interpretation, which clearly are one whole, so as to go ahead with the process. If the Likud has some new proposals, let it raise them in the Inner Cabinet and put them to a vote.

[Goren] Finally, Mr. Defense Minister, in the event the whole thing blows up, will Shim'on Peres be the next prime minister?

[Rabin] Sir, I only am dealing with one issue at the moment, and that is how to promote the peace process in the framework of this government. I very much hope the Likud ministers also will find the courage and wisdom to go ahead with and promote the process we started together. This is possible.

[Goren] I thank you very much, Mr. Defense Minister.

Alignment: No Argument Over Status of Jerusalem

TA0603173290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that, in anticipation of tomorrow's Inner Cabinet session, senior Alignment officials demand differentiation between the response to Secretary Baker and the internal dispute between the Alignment and the Likud.

Alignment officials say there is no substantial argument over the status of Jerusalem and reject allegations that giving the Arabs of East Jerusalem the right to vote would put Israel's sovereignty in doubt. The officials emphasize that the Alignment's position objecting to negotiations with the PLO is well-known.

Shamir Discusses Status of Peace Talks Process

TA0603211290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today the PLO wants to take over and call the shots in the negotiations, and Israel is categorically opposed to that. Mr. Shamir made these remarks during a tour of Elat, in which he was the guest of honor in the celebrations marking the 41st anniversary of the city's founding. Our correspondent Beni Liss joined the prime minister's entourage.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] We insist that, before entering negotiations with a foreign element, the Israeli delegation must be united and unanimous, despite the fact it is made up of representatives of two political parties. That is what our struggle is all about. I do not need any ultimatums. [passage omitted]

[Liss] Mr. Prime Minister, can we talk yet about setting a date for the Cairo meeting?

[Shamir] No date can be set at the moment, but as soon as the Likud and the Alignment reach an agreement, I think it will be possible to set such a date, following a few consultations among ourselves and with the Americans.

[Liss] What is your reaction to the petition signed by the Palestinian leaders in the territories stating the leaders of the PLO would be behind the Cairo meeting?

[Shamir] We must adopt a clear position on this issue as well. We do not intend to negotiate with the PLO. If they want to send a PLO delegation to Cairo, let them, but we will not go. I would suggest, both to ourselves and to them, not sending intellectuals and politicians, but people who are knowledgeable about the modalities of elections, so together, and in a fair manner, we may organize free and democratic elections, which this people probably will experience for the first time. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic at 1730 GMT on 6 March provides another portion of the same interview with the prime minister, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles. Asked about the Likud ministers' demands from the Alignment, Shamir says: "The issues on which an agreement is needed are very urgent and cannot be put off for long. If and when a meeting is conducted with the Palestinian delegation, we immediately will have to take a position on the elections, including the question of whether elections will be conducted in Jerusalem. As for the PLO, it continuously is striving to take over the process and to make clear it will be the one to make up the delegation, that it is the one issuing all the orders, doing the planning and carrying them out. That is not what we have in mind, and should be clear. We will not go to Cairo to negotiate with the PLO."

[Asked about the date when Israel will give its official response to the United States, the prime minister says "it will be given once we reach an agreement among ourselves. Then, we will proceed to discuss the matter with Egypt through the United States."

[To the question as to when the trilateral meeting of the foreign ministers will take place, Shamir replies "there is no technical problem in arranging such a meeting, but the secretary of state would like to reach an agreement before that on what the meeting is supposed to decide."

Asked whether the meeting could take place this month, Shamir replies: "Anything is possible."]

Soviet Official Blames U.S. for Jewish 'Crisis'

NC0603211690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Sanaa, 6 Mar (MENA)—Dr. Veniamin Popov, Soviet ambassador to Sanaa, has blamed Israel and the United States for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. He stated that plans to build Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab territories is an integral part of Israel's expansionist and hostile policies. The ambassador expressed these views in an article entitled "Opinion," which he published in today's Sanaa daily newspaper AL-THAWRAH.

In this article, the ambassador says the U.S. imposing certain quotas on Soviet Jews entering the United States gives the impression the U.S. Administration deliberately has done this to direct the flow of immigrants to Israel. The Soviet ambassador said the United States has been calling on the USSR to lift restrictions on Jewish emmigration, but that country now clearly is giving its blessing to Tel Aviv's expansionist ambitions and is doing nothing except voicing some general criticism.

Dr. Popov praised former U.S. President Jimmy Carter's position on building a settlement. At that time, he said, Washington officially declared [building] Israeli settlements is illegal. The Soviet ambassador reiterated his country's condemnation of any moves that would assist the Israeli leadership's plans regarding this. He said any such moves violate the norms of international law and the fourth Geneva convention. Such moves, he added, lead to escalating tensions and increasing extremism and hostility, particularly in the occupied Arab territories. These moves also are a threat to human rights.

Israel's position, the ambassador pointed out, creates more obstacles for the peace process and undermines the recent efforts to reach a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Soviet ambassador denied what he described as allegations concerning settling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories and said such allegations are baseless and untrue. Any accusations against the Soviet Government in this context merely are a political gimmick, he said.

The ambassador said his government is not responsible for other governments' actions and bears no responsibility for the acts of people who have discarded their Soviet citizenship. Soviet Jews and citizens of other communities have been allowed to emigrate in the context of the radical, democratic changes taking place in the Soviet Union under perestroyka. These changes allow Soviet citizens to leave the country and live abroad for a designated period of time or indefinitely, the ambassador said. He added that apart from a few exceptions defined by Soviet law, the Soviet Government cannot prevent anyone from leaving the country.

Dr. Popov mentioned his country repeatedly has made it clear it did not establish an air lift to transfer Soviet Jews from Moscow to Tel Aviv. He added the irregular (charter) flights that Aeroflot ran were to transport theater and sports groups to Israel.

The ambassador noted an investigation is under way into extremists from the Pamyat group. This group has links with Zionism [al-murtabitah bil sahyuniyah] and wants the emigration of Jews from all Soviet regions before next May. These extremists, he said, will be tried according to Soviet laws.

The Soviet ambassador concluded his article by expressing the belief Arab countries are gaining better understanding of that issue and are becoming aware the issue is comprehensive and intricate and cannot be easily tackled. The ambassador explained that part of the problem has to do with Tel Aviv's illegitimate acts and its persisting expansionism, which has U.S. backing. He said the only way out of this crisis is to mobilize world public opinion and put decisive pressure on the Israeli Government to make the latter stop violating international treaties and start observing international conventions.

Labor Drafts Proposal; No Decision Expected

TA0703072290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0702 GMT 7 Mar 90

[By political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Good morning from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. All 10 ministers are here at the Inner Cabinet meeting: the six Alignment ministers—Peres, Rabin, Navon, Bar-Lev, Shahal, and Ya'aqobi, and the four Likud ministers—Shamir, Arens, Nisim, and Levi. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i is out of the country, and the appointment of Moshe Qatzav has not yet been ratified by the Inner Cabinet.

Before the Inner Cabinet meeting, the Alignment ministers met and agreed on the proposed draft they will submit for debate. The following is the unsurprising wording as formulated by Minister Moshe Shahal: 1) The secretary of state is to be given an affirmative reply, according to which Israel agrees to a delegation from the territories, composed on the basis of names, that will conduct negotiations for the modalities of elections in the territories. 2) This consent is given based on an understanding the delegation may include two deportees and one to two residents from the territories who also have a residence or an office in East Jerusalem. This is the resolution the Alignment ministers are attempting to pass in the Inner Cabinet.

It will be remembered the Likud does not expect a resolution to be made today. We will wait and see. The debate is expected to end within two to three hours.

'Full Text' of Resolution

TA0703072590 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Mar 90 p 3

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz on the "full text" of the resolution adopted 6 March by the Alignment ministers]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin formulated the draft resolution adopted yesterday by the Alignment ministers. He typed out the resolution in his office, and all the ministers unanimously endorsed its wording. Here is the full text:

This is the draft resolution for the meeting of the Labor Party ministers on 6 March 1990.
1. Israel will continue the peace process according to its initia, which was endorsed in the Cabinet resolution on 14 May 1989.
2. The status of Jerusalem as the sovereign and indivisible capital of Israel is not an issue for discussion. A decision on this already was made by the Israeli government in July 1967, when Levi Eshkol, may he rest in peace, served as prime minister as a representative of the Labor Party.
3. According to the government's basic guidelines, Israel will not negotiate with the PLO.
4. The Labor Party ministers demand the prime minister convene the Inner Cabinet tomorrow, Wednesday, 7 March 1990, to discuss and to decide to deliver a positive response to the question conveyed by the U.S. secretary of state, including the understandings included in that question. This is the only way to further the peace process according to the Israeli initiative.
5. The Labor Party ministers catagorically reject any attempt by the Likud ministers to make the adoption of this resolution a condition to accepting demands that totally deviate from the text of the government's peace initiative as endorsed on 14 May 1989.

'Serious' Inner Cabinet Debate To Continue

TA0703100490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0904 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev and Communications Minister Gad Ya'aqobi by political correspondent Arye Golan, following the Inner Cabinet meeting outside the Prime Minister's Office—live]

[Text] [Golan] Shalom. The Inner Cabinet meeting has just ended, and here is Minister Bar-Lev:

[Bar-Lev] The debate has not ended; it will continue on Sunday morning [11 March].

[Golan] What is the pretext for this delay?

[Bar-Lev] The pretext—if you wish to call it that—is not all Inner Cabinet members had the time to state their views.

[Golan] Did the Alignment ministers agree to the postponement?

[Bar-Lev The prime minister decides these things.

[Golan] Ministers Shahal and Gad Ya'aqobi are approaching. We hear, first of all, that no decisions were made in today's meeting, which will continue on Sunday. What was the climate in the Inner Cabinet meeting today, Minister Ya'aqobi?

[Ya'aqobi] There was an exchange of views and a disagreement, mainly regarding the basis on which the Palestinian delegation from the territories will be made up. The controversy focused on inclusion in the delegation of deported territory residents and territory residents with an additional address in Jerusalem.

I think, also, we are not of one mind regarding the need for a quick and immediate decision. In our opinion, the situation now is ripe. It is possible and necessary to decide quickly, to provide a clear and unequivocal answer to the secretary of state's questions.

[Golan] Minister Ya'aqobi, has there already been an attempt on the part of the prime minister to precoordinate things with your ministers before the Inner Cabinet says yes to Baker?

[Ya'aqobi] There has been no attempt to attain precoordination before the meeting, but in my opinion, everything was said with full honesty, clarity, and frankness at this meeting. The meeting will be continued on Sunday morning. We hope—and we will demand it—that on Sunday, the Inner Cabinet will vote and an affirmative reply will be given to the United States, to allow the process to be continued.

[Golan] In this event, the Labor Party Bureau, at its meeting tomorrow, will not discuss secession from the government at this time. In fact, the Alignment is waiting for the Likud.

[Ya'aqobi] I do not know that a proposal to this effect is not going to be raised. Every bureau member has freedom of speech, and everyone may submit any motion he pleases. I do not believe, however, such a proposal should be debated and resolved tomorrow. After the Inner Cabinet adopts its resolutions, the Labor Party institutions will be convened in the course of next week to decide on this issue, among others.

[Golan] Who were the ministers who took the floor today, and what did you learn from their remarks?

[Ya'aqobi] I cannot and should not report on Inner Cabinet meetings. What I can say is that most of the ministers expressed their views today. The rest will....

[Golan, interrupting] Including the prime minister?

[Ya'aqobi] The prime minister opened the meeting, but has not stated his position yet. On Sunday, the remaining ministers will make their statements and, I hope, a resolution will be passed.

[Golan] Was there an amiable atmosphere or tension between the Labor and Likud ministers?

[Ya'aqobi] There was a very matter-of-fact atmosphere. The meeting was neither stormy nor irritable. In my opinion, despite the controversy, the debate was serious.

[Golan] Thank you very much.

More on Inner Cabinet Meeting

TA0703104490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister during the Inner Cabinet meeting this morning disclosed that U.S. Secretary of State Baker spoke with him last Thursday, asking that the Cabinet soon decide on the matter of the Palestinian delegation to the dialogue with Israel. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports Mr. Shamir told the Inner Cabinet members he had explained to Secretary Baker the issue is serious.

As for the course of the meeting, Foreign Minister Arens opened with a report on his talk with Secretary Baker, saying he had explained to his U.S. counterpart the East Jerusalem and deportees issues are real matters invested with strong emotions.

Shim'on Peres demanded a decision be made today, and read the concluding proposal drafted by the Labor Party ministers, which requires a positive answer to the U.S. secretary of state's questions: namely, whether the Israeli Government will be prepared to accept any Palestinian resident of the territories based on names. The Labor Party ministers' proposal also requires a positive reply be given to the understanding the Palestinian delegation include deportees and residents with a dual residential or business address—in the territories and in East Jerusalem.

Minister Peres during the meeting leveled criticism at the Likud ministers who found fault with the Labor Party ministers to the effect the latter officials are against a unified Jerusalem. Arens at this point posed the following question to Peres: If East Jerusalem residents participate in the elections, will that not be interpreted as our agreement to the partition of Jerusalem? In response, Peres asked: You agree to incorporate Nabulus residents in the Palestinian delegation—does this mean you are giving up on Nabulus?

Minister Rabin suggested a positive answer be given to Baker's questions first, and that only then, before the Israeli delegation leaves for a dialogue with the Palestinian representatives in Cairo, should the Alignment and the Likud coordinate positions. In Rabin's opinion, the PLO also is not overjoyed about elections in the territories.

In any event, several Inner Cabinet ministers expressed their opinions during the meeting, but the prime minister, who opened it, did not express his. The Inner Cabinet will reconvene this Sunday.

The Alignment ministers at this moment are convening to discuss this morning's Inner Cabinet meeting. Our party affairs correspondent reports it probably will be decided to convene the party's Central Committee this Monday, the day following the second session of the Inner Cabinet.

Shahal on Inner Cabinet, Labor Party's Course

TA0703103990 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0925 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Interview with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal by Rafi Reshef, after the Inner Cabinet meeting outside the prime minister's bureau—live]

[Excerpts] [Reshef] Good day, Minister.

[Shahal] Good day, Rafi.

[Reshef] Are you pleased?

[Shahal] First of all, I am not surprised. I can say I am pleased by the way the issues were presented by us, because....

[Reshef, interrupting] With your permission, I would like to hear whether during today's meeting, the Alignment ministers heard any different inflections in the Likud remarks.

[Shahal] First, I would say that judging by their tone, they themselves are not convinced the arguments they had decided on at the Likud ministers meeting are serious. They spoke in a very minor tone today. On the other hand, I do not believe we expected to be able to persuade them, because the problem does not lie in the replies to Baker's questions. In my opinion, the problem is the situation in the Likud, which has produced the partisan-political decision to present their terms, which are supposed to avert further disintegration.

[Reshef] You will pardon me for interrupting you at this point. I believe we exhausted this issue yesterday. I would like....

[Shahal, interrupting] Yes, Rafi, but they remain unchanged.

[Reshef] What I am trying to learn from you is whether you discovered anything new at today's meeting. What prompted the Alignment ministers to consent to postpone the meeting until Sunday?

[Shahal] Look, we did not agree to postpone the meeting. As far as I can judge, the prime minister came to the meeting with an a priori decision not to conduct a vote. We insisted on conducting a continuation debate tomorrow. He agreed to conduct it on Sunday in the framework of an extraordinary Inner Cabinet meeting.

At the same time we are going on with the inner process in our party, including a decision to be made at the Labor Party Bureau meeting tomorrow to conduct a Central Committee meeting close to Sunday. This latter meeting will be Monday [12 March], I estimate, and the background is the cold realization that in the absence of

a favorable decision and consent to the drafted proposal we submitted this morning, we will determine this government no longer has grounds for existence.

[Reshef] Now the picture is clear: You say the bureau will convene tomorrow, and that the Central Committee probably will meet on Monday—subject, of course, to what happens in the Inner Cabinet on Sunday.

[Shahal] Naturally, if the Likud surprises us by joining our side, I will be happy to accept that surprise.

[Reshef] How many of the 10 ministers had time to make a statement today?

[Shahal] Six members spoke: the foreign minister, Peres, Rabin, Shahal, Ya'aqobi, Bar-Lev, and Nisim. Nisim arrived prepared for a prolonged debate. I think he has embraced the method of his colleague, Knesset Member Uri'el Lynn: He came to the meeting equipped with a deliberately long speech, presumably to prevent adoption of a resolution.

[Reshef] It may not be significant, but you listed seven names, not six.

[Shahal] I did not include myself.

[Reshef] Yes, I see, six, excluding yourself. What I find significant is Yitzhaq Shamir has not spoken.

[Shahal] No. He did make a few remarks, however. [passage omitted]

[Reshef] Judging by your rich experience, would you say any further contacts are expected? What can happen by Sunday, if anything?

[Shahal] I believe the Likud—and particularly Mr. Shamir—will take stock of the situation. The problem is inside the Likud. If he finds there even is the slightest chance, as far as he is concerned, to preserve his standing, he may embrace the Alignment proposal. If he does, we will welcome him. The chance of this happening is, however, in my opinion, very slight, because Ari'el Sharon is breathing down his neck from one direction, while Moda'i and company are doing the same from another.

An even graver question is what will happen to the Likud Party now, when he comes to them. I believe quite a large group in the party, including some who do not belong to any one faction, but who in fact are supporters of Shamir—like Beni Begin and others—are going to be quite radical. They will not allow him to make any change whatsoever.

[Reshef] Thank you very much.

[Shahal] Thank you.

Immigration Data Censorship Explained in Knesset

TA0703112290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Minister Roni Milo a short while ago announced in the Knesset the number of immigrants arriving in Israel, transit channels, and measures taken to ensure immigrants' safety will continue to be censored. Milo was replying on behalf of the government to a query posed by Knesset Member Yosi Sarid, who contended censorship of immigrant data is a dumb decision designed to conceal the fact immigrants are being settled in the territories, and that the censorship will harm Israel's image in the world. This is what Milo said:

[Begin Milo recording] Transit channels and immigrant safety are sensitive issues both because of Arab pressure, and because of security reasons. Censorship will be imposed on the following issues:
1. The current number of immigrants and figures related to forecasts.
2. Transit methods and transportation, as well their safeguarding.
3. The elements dealing with immigration. [end recording]

Minister Milo's remarks were reported by our correspondent, Dov Gilhar.

King Calls Israeli, PLO Stands 'Intransigent'

TA0703083490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Jordan's King Husayn says that Israel's position on the Baker plan is by and large negative. Speaking in Paris after talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, Husayn said he had his doubts about the future of the peace process.

Sources in Paris told the Voice of Israel reporter that the king said that both Israel and the PLO have been intransigent and did not want to move forward with the peace process.

In his talks with the French president, Husayn expressed the Arab opposition to the mass immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

'All-Out Rejection' of Jewish Settlement Urged

JN0403105590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Mar 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Arabs Are Being Had"]

[Text] The eyes of the world were once again focused on Saturday's Israeli inner cabinet meeting to give its final word on the U.S. proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. This was taking place amid renewed hopes that the pressures being applied on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir from all sides, including his Labour partners in the government, to accept these proposals would succeed. The last-minute footdragging by Shamir to extract more favourable conditions and assurances from Washington had been met with resistance from all quarters, including his deputy Shim'on Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin. When all failed, Shamir tried in vain to ensure receipt of extra U.S. aid to settle Soviet Jews without offering assurances that such new immigrants would end up in Arab territories. If anything, all these recent developments mean that when the U.S. decides to put its feet down, it can create miracles, albeit it is premature to label the latest U.S. succeses with Israel as such.

True, Shamir and his proteges in the Israeli government tried to scream the house down on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker for demanding assurances from Israel that the extra $400 million aid would not be used to settle the new immigrants in the occupied territories and demanded a rapid reconsideration of Baker's terms. When this Israeli outcry was effectively rebuffed by Washington, a glimmer of hope was struck that suggests that preliminary peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian side was after all in the offing. Still, the Arab side would prefer that no aid be offered to Israel at this stage to settle new immigrants even if such aid is effectively linked to assurances that none of it would be used to settle them in Arab territories. The Arab position should be an allout rejection of any settlement of Jewish immigrants whether in Israel or outside it in the Arab territories. Surely, Washington knows and comprehends that any settlement of Jewish immigrants in Israel proper with U.S. funds would in the final analysis release Israeli funds that would end up being spent on expanding Israeli settlements in the Arab territories. There is a growing fear, therefore, that as rosy as the picture that is being painted about the latest developments on the prospects of Israeli-Palestinian talks, the Arab side is being nevertheless had. The clearest picture that is emerging from all recent events and developments portray an Arab success or a semblance of success that is only true in form at a time when Israel is still striking one substantive victory after the other in matters that count most. Thus, as the Arab side may wish to celebrate the beginning or near beginning of peace talks between Israel and an unidentified Palestinian delegation, Israel earns another half a billion of urgently needed U.S. funds over and above the $3 billion that it annually gets in order to populate itself and in due course the occupied territories with millions of new immigrants from the four corners of the world.

Committee Calls for Boycotting U.S. Goods

JN0603104290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Mar 90 p 6

[Excerpts] Amman—The General Authority of the Professional Associations' Committee for Supporting the Intifadah conducted its annual general conference, led by Dr. Mamduh al-'Abbadi, secretary of the Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifadah.

Dr. al-'Abbadi at the start of the meeting delivered a speech saying: In the name of the Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifadah, I salute you as colleagues within the Professional Associations' Committee for Supporting the Intifadah, one of the sectorial subcommittees emanating from the Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifadah.

Al-'Abbadi said the associations' committee had collected 140,000 Jordanian dinars, representing almost 10 percent of the total amount collected by the Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifadah. He added this is a modest amount when compared to the tactical and moral accomplishments scored by the committee—accomplishments that can be described as basic and significant.

He went on to say: If the national week in support of the intifadah, due to start on 21 March—the anniversary of the al-Karamah battle—is successful, your endeavours also can be considered successful. I believe the main concern of your meetings is how to render this week a success, as such success will gladden all citizens in Jordan and Palestine. [passage omitted]

The committee addressed an appeal saying: At a time when the glorious Palestinian intifadah entered its 28th month recording the most splendid pages in the anals of human struggle in the face of Zionism; at a time when the Zionist U.S. Administration appointed itself an advocate of human rights in the world, this administration persists in ignoring the rights of the great Palestinian

people to freedom and independence. This administration used the veto more than six times against the Palestinian individual's human rights during the intifadah. Those far and near are aware of the volume of aid being granted to the Zionist entity. They also are aware of the figures earmarked in the U.S. budget for supporting the Zionist army, which seeks to liquidate the Palestinian infrastructure.

Brother citizen, in light of this, every piaster you pay as a price for U.S. goods will backfire on you and on your son. It will be like a bullet carrying death or a bomb causing destruction. Brother citizen, you are called on to respond to our call to boycott U.S. goods. We address this appeal to the Arab citizen, relying on his convictions and contributing to a unified popular Arab response to the unjust and flagrant U.S. aggression and the continuous U.S. support for the Zionist entity in Palestine. Let our consciences respond to this call, and let us boycott U.S.-Zionist goods to safeguard our great people's rights to freedom and independence, and in support of the glorious intifadah. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Leaves for France, Britain 5 Mar

JN0503121690 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] His majesty the king left Amman today on a tour that will include France and Britain. His majesty will confer with French President Francois Mitterrand and British Prime Minister Mrs. Margaret Thatcher on a number of Arab issues in light of the international changing conditions. Bilateral relations between Jordan and France and Jordan and Britain will also be discussed.

The chief of the Royal Court and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister are accompanying his majesty on the tour.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in as regent during his majesty's absence abroad.

Iran's 'Willingness' on Hostage Issue Cited

NC0603124590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] The newspaper AL-NAHAR today quotes fundamentalist sources in Lebanon who are watching the Iranian political atmosphere very closely as saying that there is willingness in the Iranian capital to activate the hostages issue. However, they said it is unlikely that the hostages will be released soon.

The same sources added that the official U.S. denial of any secret talks between Tehran and Washington is correct. They said that the necessary mechanism for the release of the hostages is unavailable and added that the contacts reported by the media are of an exploratory nature only.

Israel Reportedly Lifts Blockade on Coast

NC0703113690 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry today received a cable from Nasib Lahhud, the Lebanese ambassador in Washington, saying that, following his contacts with U.S. officials regarding the blockade which Israel has imposed on the southern Lebanese coast, State Department Official David Newton informed him that the occupation authorities today lifted the blockade on the Lebanese coast.

'Awn Aide Says Agreement in East Beirut 'Imminent'

NC0603162490 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] REUTER cites an aide to General 'Awn as saying that a comprehensive agreement is imminent. REUTER also cites political sources as saying that the so-called new peace overture came in the wake of what seemed to be a failure of 'Awn's campaign against the Lebanese Forces, who are in control of two-thirds of the eastern area, the ports, the main power plant, and the only branch of the Central Bank. REUTER cites a prominent Christian leader as saying that 'Awn realizes that he has lost militarily, that the fighting should stop, and that he should negotiate a final peaceful settlement.

Ja'ja' on Restoring Situation in Eastern Area

NC0603221890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has said that normalizing the situation by removing the mines and barricades, restoring normal life, and returning the combatants to their barracks has been the Lebanese Forces' demand right from the beginning.

In an interview with the AP, he disclosed pressure and threats by France and the Vatican saying that they will not interfere in the Lebanese cause if the clashes continue.

Replying to a question on whether this means a green light for Syrian intervention in the eastern area, he said: Not directly. However, in diplomatic terms this is clear. On the effects of a potential Syrian forces entry into the eastern area, he said: The Lebanese Forces would pay the highest price because the Lebanese cause is ours and the general's [Michel 'Awn] history in this cause does not exceed two years. He added that earlier the Lebanese Forces decided to resist the Syrian Army if it interfered.

Commenting on the situation in the eastern area after the recent bloody incidents, he said: The whole situation must be reconsidered because this situation cannot continue as it is after everything that has happened. On the likelihood of merging the Lebanese Forces with the Army in a unified military [operations] room, he said: Coordination is necessary and logical too. This has been the case before—I mean a unified operations room. However, merging the Lebanese Forces and the Army is a different matter because this means abolishing the Lebanese Forces, which is absolutely out of the question.

As for the demand to dissolve the Lebanese Forces now, this is illogical and unacceptable because it does not serve any goal, plan, or strategy. The Lebanese Forces is an army in itself, not a militia or a gang, and this has been proved by recent events. Why should the Lebanese Forces be dissolved? Should the Lebanese Forces be dissolved to serve the 1943 state? This is not acceptable. Should the Lebanese Forces be dissolved to serve a state in the eastern area? This too is rejected.

The Lebanese Forces will not be dissolved unless it is part of a comprehensive political solution. In this case, all the militias will be disbanded or turned into political parties, and normal life will be restored. If the Lebanese Forces fail to persuade the others to accept a federation, we will continue our struggle to achieve our plan unless another party is able to convince us of another plan. We are working toward establishing a state, and we know what kind of state we want. Let the others tell us what kind of state they want.

Ja'ja' noted that the Lebanese Forces do not object to the Lebanese Army's using Beirut port to import arms because it is our army and the anomalous situation has ended.

Explaining the Lebanese Forces' stand on the two governments, he said: The problem is multifaceted and is beyond our opinion of Ilyas al-Hirawi and General 'Awn as individuals regarding who is legitimate and who is not, who is legal and who is illegal, and who is constitutional and who is not. No legitimacy can be legitimate outside the eastern area because it is the only free area in Lebanon.

Therefore, the situation is delicate and must be handled with deliberation and resilience. This is proved by the fact that everyone, including al-Hirawi, believes that there will be no legitimacy in Lebanon except through the eastern area. Otherwise, how can all this insistence

on entering the eastern area be explained? This must be considered when dealing with the situation.

On how the Lebanese Forces would deal with al-Hirawi if he entered the B'abda Palace, Ja'ja' said: This issue is linked to the program and plan of the government he would form.

On his view of al-Ta'if accord, he said: This matter has two aspects: the al-Ta'if process and the al-Ta'if document. The process as a whole represents a plan supported by all Arab and foreign countries that met to find a practical way to rescue Lebanon. This intervention was the result of a Lebanese request to prevent Syria from taking exclusive control of Lebanon. The al-Ta'if process means withdrawing the Lebanese dossier from Syria's hands and putting it in the hands of the Arabs and foreigners, particulary the Americans and Europeans. As for the substance of the process, it can be modified.

He affirmed that there are contacts under way with the U.S. administration and noted that Washington is opposed to the bloodshed in Lebanon. Commenting on the Iraqi position, he said Baghdad is opposed to the fighting and violence in the eastern area. On the situation in the eastern area after the recent bloody incidents, he said the whole situation must be reconsidered.

Cedar Guardians Leader Said Released by LF

NC0503144990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The gangs of Ja'ja' have released Etienne Saqr, leader of the so-called Guardians of the Cedar Party. Saqr left the country from Juniyah port. The Ja'ja' media noted Saqr's statements in which he denounced the senseless war, said he is against abolishing the Lebanese Forces [LF], lashed out at the Syrians, and called on 'Awn and Ja'ja' to fight them.

Saqr said that his departure is for health reasons, adding: I am not involved in what is going on in the eastern areas, and I hope that the truce will last long.

Afghanistan

President Najibullah's 6 Mar Radio, TV Address

LD0603184490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1705 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Radio and television address by President Najibullah on 6 March; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Dear compatriots, for more than a decade our proud and beloved homeland has been stained with the blood of its children and is burning in the fire of a fratricidal war. Now our people and all the people of the world are in possession of incriminating evidence about the true instigators of this war, the enemies of the people of our country, along with a handful of people who had sold out residing in foreign countries. In order to put an end to the suffering and pains of Afghans—which surely no Afghan family has been spared—the state of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] has begun and continued to act with all sincerity and seriousness. On the one hand, the foreign enemies of the people of Afghanistan and, on the other hand, their internal agents, have consistently tried, through a variety of intrigues and conspiracies, to erect obstacles on the path of the development and success of the policy of national reconciliation and to intensify war and bloodshed in our country. These conspiracies, sometimes in the form of armed aggression including the armed forces of the foreign enemies of Afghanistan against the country's cities and populated provinces, and at other times within the framework of [word indistinct] political and military movements from within Afghanistan, have been organized in order to disrupt the stablity of the situation.

The RA, consistently and with awareness and vigilance, has been watching such conspiracies and intrigues and has taken effective measures toward their timely rebuff. For example, for ever a year now the heroic Armed Forces of the country and all patriotic citizens of Afghanistan have, with courage and bravery, pushed back attacks by the joint Pakistani, Saudi Wahhabi, and Pakistani-linked extremists in Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Zabol Provinces and in Khowst Major district and in other parts of the country and have defended with self-sacrifice and decisiveness the people of their regions. Similarly, the security organs of the RA, with sacrifice and bravery, have discovered and neutralized the conspiracies of the enemies of the people of Afghanistan which have been organized from outside and implemented by a handful of sold-out traitors inside the country. Some time ago, a secret network of the extremist and sold-out group of Gulbuddin was discovered in Kabul and was arrested. A report about this was brought to the attention of the compatriots. Individuals took part in these conspiracies who did not see the establishment of peace and stability in the country in accord with their narrow, ambitious, and treacherous interests and, therefore, they even embarked on engaging in vain armed attempts against the people and the policy of national reconciliation in order to safeguard and maintain their positions.

You, dear compatriots, were informed this afternoon, 6 March, through various statements and announcement by the Supreme Headquarters of the Armed Forces that a handful of sold-out and treacherous elements who are attached to the foreign enemies of our country, in collusion with the sold-out group of Gulbuddin, led by Shahnawaz Tanay, the former defense minister, resorted to armed action against civilian and state targets in Kabul. This treacherous act was crushed as a result of the timely and decisive reaction of the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Kabul. Tanay, its ringleader, was forced to flee from his original hideout.

Instructions have been given to all the units and companies of the Armed Forces to seize Tanay, dead or alive. We expect all compatriots not to spare any effort in this connection on behalf of the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA. As has been mentioned in a statement by the Supreme Headquarters of the Armed Forces of the RA, a number of the leaders of this anti-homeland and anti-peace action have been crushed, and others have been arrested. Others have surrendered or are surrendering to the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA.

Messages which have arrived from the garrison, defense councils, and commanders of the units and companies of the Armed Forces from all over the country describe their hatred for and wrath toward the conspirators against the defense of the state power of the RA, against the independence and freedom of our country and the implementation of the national reconciliation policy. This is a manifestation of the fact that all the soldiers, officers, NCOs, and generals of the Armed Forces and all Afghan patriots support the national reconciliation policy and the state power of the RA.

Brave compatriots, personnel of the heroic and freedom-giving Armed Forces of the country, relying on Almighty God and the will and support of patriotic Afghans, we have full confidence that the brave and aware people of Afghanistan, with unshakable national unity, will be able to crush and foil all the conspiracies and plots of the foreign enemies and those attached to them, and to stand decisively in the defense of peace, of the high national interest, and of full implementation of the national reconciliation policy to which the interests of each Afghan individual are related.

Dear citizens of Kabul and Afghan compatriots, you should have full confidence in the state and Armed Forces of the RA, in the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and in its political allies. Please remain calm. In return all these forces have full confidence in the wise Afghan national awareness of their brave compatriots.

Peace will win over war and warmongers. Success comes from God.

New Defense Minister Addresses Armed Forces

LD0603185990 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1720 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Speech by Lieutenant General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA); place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots, soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals of the Armed Forces of the RA. The Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland of the RA has given me today this duty and authority to take up all the responsibility of the leadership of the defense ministry under the leadership of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA.

We hereby instruct all personnel of the Armed Forces of the RA, including all the rank and file, the tank troops, airmen, artillery battalions of the air defense forces, land artillery forces, and infantry forces to defend their positions with vigilance and awareness, and to make every effort to try to discover and seize, dead or alive, [former defense minister] Shahnawaz Tanay, the treachereous element attached to the enemy of Afghanistan who has fled his previous hideout; and to crush any resistance by his treachereous group and the deceived people.

The defense of honor, dignity, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of our beloved country Afghanistan is an imperative duty of all compatriots, and especially all the personnel of the hero air forces and air defense forces, tank troops, artillery forces, infantry forces, and other sections of the Armed Forces of the RA. Success comes from God!

Najibullah Issues Statement on Coup Attempt

LD0603205990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Statement by the High Command of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan; date, place of issue not given]

[Text] As was reported to our dear compatriots in previous statements, a number of traitors to the country headed by [former defense minister] Shahnawaz Tanay mounted an antipeace and antipeople's interest armed uprising. It was said in the statements that the action was undertaken with the collaboration of the nation-selling group of Gulbuddin.

The Voice of America's Pashto service reported at 1800 that Gulbuddin had issued a statement in support of the treachrous action by Tanay. In the statement Gulbuddin instructed his armed extremist groups to fire on the positions of the units and contingents of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in the area of Kabul in support of Tanay. Gulbuddin's statement proves the association and solidarity of Tanay and his friends with Gulbuddin's extremist group and foreign intelligence organizations.

The High Command of the Armed Forces of the RA addresses those people who are deceived and who are drawn to the failed antipeace and anti-Afghan conspiracy of Gulbuddin-Tanay, learning about the antinationalist and treacherous real face of Tanay, and taking into account this evidence and the Tanay-Gulbuddin joint stand to separate themselves from those nation-selling and associated-with-aliens persons and to play their national role in repelling and crushing the conspiracy of the foreign enemies of Afghanistan and their internal puppets. If those people act in line with this statement by the High Command of the Armed Forces by 0400 tomorrow morning, 17 Hout [7 March], their full safety shall be guaranteed.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA

New Interior Minister Issues Instructions

LD0603212290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1800 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Statement by Raz Muhammad Paktin, member of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland and minister of the interior of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]; date, place of issue not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, soldiers, officers, police officers, generals, and personnel of the units and companies of the People's Militia [Sarandoy], the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland has today, 16 Howt 1368 [6 March 1990] given me the duty and authority to take up the responsibility of the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior.

I hereby instruct all personnel of the vigilant People's Militia, personnel of the tribal units, and the units of the Defense of the Revolution, to defend and protect order, life, and the security of compatriots with vigilance and wisdom, and to use all their forces and means to embark on ensuring peace, discovering and seizing dead or alive [former defense minister] Shahnawaz Tanay, the traitor attached to the enemies of Afghanistan who has fled his hideout, and to crush any resistance by the treacherous group and the deceived people. Defense of the honor, dignity, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of our beloved country, Afghanistan, is the imperative duty of all the personnel of the Armed Forces of the country and of the People's Militia.

Patriotic and heroic militiamen, wherever you are, maintain your unity, coordination, and joint efforts with other sections of the Armed Forces of Afghanistan and protect and safeguard the life of the people, families, state establishments, and public property.

[Signed] Raz Muhammad Paktin, Member of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland and Minister of the Interior of the RA

Armed Forces Seize Defense Ministry Building

LD0603204490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 2000 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Announcement by the Supreme Headquarters of the High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA]; date, place of issue not given—live or recorded]

[Text] The High Command of the Armed Forces of the RA informs the dear compatriots that the Defense Ministry building, where [former defense minister] Shahnawaz Tanay, the antipeace and antihomeland, was hiding, has been seized by the heroic units and companies of the Armed Forces of the RA. [sentence as heard] A number of the elements attached to Gulbuddin-Tanay [as heard] who were calling themselves the Revolutionary Headquarters of the Chief of the General Staff were crushed, arrested, or have surrendered.

Those arrested will be shown on television tomorrow to the dear compatriots.

Unattributed Appeal To Crush Gulbuddin Issued

LD0703001490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 2130 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Unattributed announcement]

[Text] Dear compatriots, commanders, and members of the armed opposition groups: You, who have for many years borne the burden of war and have been far from your homes and hearths, who wait for the day when the war will disappear from the life of the Afghans and resume your calm and peaceful and decent life: The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] has declared and honestly implemented the policy of national reconciliation for the cessation of war and to secure your own and other Afghans' hopes. Now that there is much hope about securing peace and conciliation among the Afghans the extremists and warmongering elements, Gulbuddin and Tanay, who have sold out, collaborated with each other and on the instruction of Pakistan's military intelligence, embarked on an anti-Afghan and inhumane conspiracy and thereby wanted to oblitrated national reconciliation which you and all your compatriots desire. It is not irrelevant that some time ago Gulbuddin distanced himself from the six-party and nine-party groups and the internal commanders, replying on his reserves in the person of people like Tanay and talked about the armed action of his supporters.

Gulbuddin and Tanay desired to seize power by any possible means and by mounting an armed uprising. They rejected the role of the people of Afghanistan and of political forces in the process of peace with the moderate organizations. It is good that the touchstone of reality intervened so that those who are not pure can be ashamed.

It is declared that all armed opposition forces of the RA should reveal the antinational faces of the extremists and the conservatives at this sensitive and fateful moment for the country which is passing a great test, and make efforts to protect the lofty interests of the country and the implementation of national reconciliation policy, which ensures national unity and the unity of all Afghans, and which seeks to restore peace, cease war in the country, and repulse conspiraters and power-seekers.

Internal armed commanders, you who bear the real burden of the war have suffer much misery from the war. Witness that Gulbuddin and Tanay have come together in an antinational act and sabotaged the process of national reconciliation in which your role and participation is outstanding. Wherever you are, crush the enemies of the homeland and the national traditions, the enemies of independence and the territorial integrity of the country. Your peace-loving compatriots will not forget your national sentiments.

Leaders of the six parties in Peshawar, raise your voice of protest and of loathing against Gulbuddin, the known anti-peace, anti-Afghan-unity element. do not let the bloodstained hand of Gulbuddin be stained once again with the blood of your compatriots against your national interests and your honorable country.

Leaders of the nine parties in Iran, Gulbuddin and Tanay wanted to bathe our compatriots in blood, ruin our country, and sabotage the process of national reconciliation which has prepared the ground for a broad dialogue for the cessation war and to restore peace. At this sensitive stage in the country your role and participation in condemnation of the acts of the bigots and warmonger extremists will be of importance and of outstanding value. Wherever you are, condemn the acts of Gulbuddin-Tanay, who have put their self-seeking and power-seeking interests before those of the people of Afghanistan and the intersts of other political forces. Fulfill your patriotic participation in defense of the independence and the territorial integrity of the country.

Afghan Opposition Leader 'Knew Nothing' of Coup

LD0603185590 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar 6, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic Mohaz-e Melli (National Front) of Afghanistan Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani said here today that he knew nothing about the coup in Afghanistan as well as involvement of a party of the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance in it.

'If you mean Hikmatyar, I don't think he or any other group can do anything alone,' he told IRNA.

Gaylani who is here to inaugurate his party's bureau in Tehran said he feels honoured that the Islamic National

Front's bureau is inaugurated in Tehran, the center of the Islamic revolution and the stand of the late founder of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni.

He expressed satisfaction over his visit to Tehran which he said aims at preparing a joint plan with the Tehran-based nine-party Afghan coalition for the elections in Afghanistan. 'Victory is achieved only in the light of the unity of all Afghan mujahidin group,' he stressed.

Gaylani accompanied by Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived here last week.

Meanwhile, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) Afghanistan Gulbuddin Hikmatyar expressed support for the coup attempt in Afghanistan.

'We support the action of the Army officers against the Kabul regime,' Hikmatyar told a press conference in Islamabad.

Defense Councils Swear Loyalty to Najibullah

Herat Province

LD0603195490 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Message from Herat Province Defense Council to President Najibullah; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] We, the members of the Defense Council of Herat Province and personnel of the Armed Forces, give full assurance to esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, that we will use all our efforts toward defense of the national reconciliation policy and the country's independence.

The units and companies stationed in Herat Province assure you, esteemed Najibullah, that we will defend every inch of the country with complete loyalty to the national reconciliation policy.

We will ensure security in the relevant regions with awareness and vigilance.

Qandahar Province

LD0603195190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Message from Qandahar Province Defense Council to President Najibullah; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and guardian of the independence of the country:

On behalf of all the soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals, and all the Qandahar defenders of the reconciliation policy, we assure you that we will stand in the just trenches of the independence and national reconciliation up to the last drop of our blood. And will fight against the conspirators in the form of Shahnawaz Tanay, this traitor of the national interests of the Afghan people.

With regard, the Defense Council of Qandahar Province

Khowst District

LD0603172890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Message issued by the Defense Council of Khowst major district on 6 March]

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee and president of Afghanistan: We herewith give you our full assurance for the defense of the state power of the Republic of Afghanistan and for the realization of the national reconciliation policy, and through you to the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland and to the PDPA Central Committee, on behalf of all the soldiers, officers and noncommissioned officers of this province. We strongly condemn the failed conspiracy of treachery against the interests of the country's independence committed by Shahnawaz Tanay, this treacherous element.

The liberated Afghan people will never forgive this treachery against their national interests.

Revolution Command Swears Loyalty to Najibullah

LD0603202190 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1900 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Message to the Afghan Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland from the High Command for the Defense of the Revolution; date and place of issue not given]

[Text] To the Esteemed Council of the Defense of Homeland.

We, the personnel of the Command for the Defense of the Revolution of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] condemn the treacherous and sold-out action by [former defense minister] Shahnawaz Tanay. We assure you, esteemed and dear comrade Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the RA, that we will fight to the end against any treacherous conspiracies by the elements attached to the extremists and foreigners, and will defend the revolution, independence, national sovereignty, and interests of the suffering people of Afghanistan. Peace overcomes war!

Hikmatyar Supports Coup Against Najibullah

BK0703083490 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—The Chief of Hezb-e Eslami Gulbuddin Hikmatyar declared Tuesday night [6 March] that his party fully supports the military action against the Najib government in Kabul.

Addressing a hurriedly called news conference here at his residence, he said all Afghan people must join hands with the military officers in toppling the Kabul regime.

He ordered his partymen to support the coup attempt, which, he was confident would lead to the establishment of Islamic government in Afghanistan.

He said the Najib's palace is under heavy bombardment, saying that the puppet regime would not be able to survive.

He said the outcome of the coup would be known in a day or two.

Engineer Hikmatyar disclosed that the Afghan military officers informed him this afternoon through wireless about their action against Najib's government and asked for support of all the groups of the mujahidin.

He said he decided to respond positively to this call and fully stand by the action.

Mr. Gulbuddin Hikmatyar said that there will be no other choice with the military officers engaged in the action than to join hands with the mujahidin for the establishment of an Islamic government, after the removal of the Soviet-backed Afghan government.

To a question, he said, "we support actions, not persons".

He said the military officers are willing to support mujahidin and establish an Islamic government.

He told a questioner that Afghan military aircraft were shelling Najib's palace, and that the Defence Ministry was also under attack.

The Afghan leader said that the Army officers were fed up of the continued fighting in Afghanistan and they wanted to join hands with the mujahidin for peace.

He said "Kabul regime would be removed and finished very soon, if not this time, it may be by another action".

Najibullah on Nation's Defense, Tanay's Escape

LD0703120890 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0600 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Radio statement by Najibullah, Afghan president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, in Kabul on 7 March—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Dear compatriots, members of the country's Armed Forces, after my speech yesterday I address you again today, 7 March 1990, at 0930 [0500 GMT].

Dear compariots, members of the heroic Armed Forces of the country, today coincides with the anniversary of the attack on the city of Jalalabad by joint forces of Pakistanis, Saudi Wahabbis, and extremists associated with them. One year ago Armed Forces based in Jalalabad and our compatriots in Nangarhar resisted with bravery and valor the persistent attacks of our country's enemies. They forced escaping foreign invaders and their internal mercenaries to retreat after inflicting heavy losses on them. It is worth marking this day in memory of those members of the Armed Forces—brave soldiers and self-sacrificing commanders—who lost their lives but kept their trenches. Unfortunately, Shahnawaz Tanay, the treacherous and nation-selling element, in line with instruction from Pakistani military intelligence and in collaboration with Gulbuddin, the criminal, desired to mark the anniversary of the aliens' invasion with another bloody conspiracy. He wishes to insult the blood of the heroes who defended Jalalabad, Khowst, Zabol, Qandahar, Laghman, and other parts of the country.

Members of the Armed Forces, you have endowed your country with unlimited honors by your great victory and have strengthened Afghan national pride more than ever. The people of Afghanistan are proud of you and your valor. They know you will not allow the aliens and their internal hirlings to damage your country's high interests at any price. You are the protectors of the traditions, honor of the homeland, and the Islamic and Afghan customs of your people.

Members of the brave Republic of Afghanistan [RA] Armed Forces, anywhere you are—in military barracks or in the hot trenches of the defense of the country—resolutely defend the independence of the country, your honors, and dignity against the conspirators. As you safeguarded your trenches in Jalalabad, Khowst, and Qandahar and became victors in this test, success is also yours. With honor and wisdom abort the last remnants of the Gulbuddin-Tanay anti-nation conspiracy.

It is reported with pleasure to the compatriots that all sections of the Ministry of Defense building have been completely occupied as a result of the demonstration of bravery and manhood of members of the RA Armed Forces. Also, Brigade 52 of the communication and radio relay center and the permanent center of the so-called revolutionary Chief of General Staff Shahnawaz Tanay, and the coupmakers and conspirators' communication system has been cut off. Thereby, the last remnants of the Tanay clique have been crushed in the site of the so-called revolutionary headquarters of the chief of the general staff. But Shahnawaz Tanay has even abandoned his collaborator and escaped like a coward.

The process of the surrender of the conspiratorial clique continues. Those who mount futile resistance will be punished for their acts. I would like to specifically address all soldiers, noncommissioned officers, officers, and generals of Baghram Garrison and Division 40 to punish Shahnawaz Tanay, who has committed treason against Afghanistan and its people.

Success comes from God.

High Command Says Tanay Hiding Out Near Bagram

LD0703081490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 0730 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Statement of the High Command of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA].

It is reported to all compatriots and members of the Armed Forces of the RA that Shahnawaz, the treacherous and nation-selling element, and a number of his collaborators are wandering in the area of Bagram and are seeking refuge. The High Command of the Armed Forces of the RA will generously reward and morally commend those members of the public and units of the Armed Forces, who capture Shahnawaz alive or dead.

Najibullah Makes Statement on 'Normal' Situation

LD0703103390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 0900 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Radio statement by Najibullah, Afghan president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, in Kabul—live, in Dari]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

Dear compatriots, country's armed forces personnel: Following my statement yesterday and this morning at 0930 [0500 GMT], now when it is 1330 on 7 March 1990, I once again address you, dear compatriots:

Courageous compatriots and the heroic Armed Forces of the country, the painful and catastrophic events of the last 24 hours, which took place as a result of the traitorous attempt of Shahnawaz Tanay and Gulbuddin, these agents and mercenaries of the espionage organization of Pakistan, exposed their dark and anti-Afghan faces and that of their band more than ever before. Tanay and a handful of traitors, far from every humane, Islamic, morale and Afghan standard, with cruel hearts resorted to arms to usurp state power. They bombarded populated areas in Kabul city and state establishments; a number of our compatriots were martyred and wounded. In this way I would like to offer consolation to the families of the martyred and the wounded, on behalf of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and on my own behalf, and assure them that those responsible for these savage crimes will soon be punished for their actions.

Dear compatriots, the latest events, with all their bitterness, caused the latest satanical masks to be torn away from the filthy and inhuman faces of the Gulbuddin-Tanay band and their sold-out collaborators. These extremist self-seeking, ambitious, adventurist, coup-making, war-mongering, and treacherous elements, in a covert and then overt manner and through the utilization of a variety means and methods against the peace and security of the people of Afghanistan, engaged in conspiracy. They caused great death and destruction in our country. On behalf of all patriotic and peaceloving people of Afghanistan, I express gratitude to all troops, noncommissioned officers, Satanmans [Sarandoy junior officers], officers, and generals of the Armed Forces of the RA for their resolute and courageous accomplishment of their duties toward the defense of peace and security of the people of Afghanistan.

Dear compatriots, the personnel of the heroic Armed Forces, on behalf of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Homeland, I assure you that the situation all over the country is normal and the units and companies of the country's Armed Forces with complete combat awareness and readiness are ready to repulse every sort of intrigue and the conspiracy of foreign enemies of Afghanistan and their internal agents. In some units and companies, young and aware commanders have taken the initiative and have disarmed and arrested elements linked to the Gulbuddin and Shahnawaz band. The only incident reported during the last two hours has been the exchange of sporadic fire in a part of the Bagram airport.

Warm and patriotic messages to the high command of the Armed Forces have arrived from all garrisons, units, and companies of the RA Armed Forces in all parts of the country. The messages have expressed these units' complete control over the situation and their militant readiness for the defense of the interests of the homeland, people, reconciliation, and their security vis-a-vis the conspiracies of the coup-makers of the Gulbuddin-Tanay band.

The last small nucleus and the collaborators of the sold-out band of Tanay-Gulbuddin at the Headquarters of the RA Ministry of Defense have been crushed. [words indistinct]. Also, the individuals and the units that had been misled and in some way had been drawn to the failed coup d'etat of Tanay-Gulbuddin—with the exposure of the anti-Afghan and anti-human essence of this sold-out group and upon hearing the statements of the High Command of the RA Armed Forces concerning the guarantee of the security of those who come under the command of the Armed Forces High Command—have established contact with the Ministry of Defense and the RA Armed Forces High Command and have identified themselves to the units and companies of the Armed Forces.

At present, when the situation is speedily becoming normal, I would like to express gratitude for the loyalty, sacrifice, and courage of all personnel of the RA Armed

Forces and for the wisdom and cooperation of the noble, faithful, and patriotic people of Afghanistan in the crushing and neutralizing this bloody and savage conspiracy of the enemies of the country and their internal agents. The people of Afghanistan in the length of their proud history have been able, with the help of the Almighty God, to courageously defend the political independence, territorial integrity, national sovereignty, honor and the high interests of the homeland. God willing, in the future they will also defend these things.

Success comes from God.

High Command on Additional Coup Collaborators

LD0703112290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1030 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Announcement by the High Command of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) Armed Forces dated 7 March 1990]

[Text] The High Command of the RA Armed Forces inform the compatriots that some time ago Asadollah Sarwari, without informing the state concerned authorities, left his post as ambassador to the PDRY and has gone to India. According to reliable reports he has established links with the Pakistani intelligence through Pasha Gul Wafadar and Gulbuddin. At present the High Command of the RA Armed Forces is (?in possession) of incriminating documents which prove Asadollah Sarwari's participation in the sold-out traitorous coup d'etat conspiracy, which has been organized by the Pakistani intelligence services. The High Command also has information concerning his deeds in the past which persecuted thousands and killed hundreds of our compatriots. In this way the state authorities will establish diplomatic contacts with his country of residence for the return of Asadollah Sarwari. He is an organizer of the failed coup d'etat and the agent of great and dreadful crimes. Also the High Command of the RA Armed Forces asks all compatriots outside the country not to spare any efforts in capturing Asadollah Sarwari. He is a criminal and known lunatic whose hands are stained with the blood of a great number of our compatriots. He should be handed over to the RA authorities. This deed, of course, will be rewarded materially and morally.

Afghan Envoy on Coup, Possibility of Tanay Escape

LD0703133990 Tehran IRNA in English 1333 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March, 7, IRNA—An official of the Kabul regime today described Tuesday's coup attempt against the marxists in Afghanistan as being "exaggerated."

Minister Plenipotentiary and Charge D'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Tehran, Asadullah Keshtmand said "the coup headquarters collapsed at 00:30 hours Kabul time Wednesday."

Keshtmand who was addressing reporters, ruled out the possibility of renewed confrontation near the Defence Ministry in Kabul.

The coup was masterminded by former Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, and according to reports yesterday the presidential palace was bombed by revolting Air Force pilots.

Keshtmand said the proximity of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's mujahedin forces at the joint Afghan-Pakistan border, raises the possibility that Shahnawaz Tanay has fled to the other side of the border.

He said he had no idea on the number of casualties of the coup attempt, and "no definite information is yet available in this connection."

Keshtmand also expressed ignorance about the identity of the three aircraft which bombed the presidential palace and Kabul airport yesterday, and to the country they belonged.

Asked whether they were Afghan Army planes, he said "The Air Force and especially its commander are standing beside the present (Marxist) government" in Kabul.

Keshtmand blamed what he called "rightist-extremist forces inside Afghanistan" which according to him "do not take the existing realities into consideration."

He said that a number of those involved in the coup had been "killed, arrested, or surrendered," and "some of these agents" would be shown on the government controlled television.

Keshtmand was visibly annoyed at Pakistan's stand vis-a-vis the aborted coup and said, 'such instigations' will affect the future trend of talks with the mujahedin, he said hinting that perhaps the Kabul regime would revise its stand in this regard.

Jalalabad Troops Plan Antigovernment Actions

BK0703074690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0706 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 7 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance Wednesday [7 March] claimed that an intercepted radio message indicated that two army units in eastern Jalalabad city were going to launch an operation against the government of President Najibullah.

The claim came the day after heavy fighting in the capital Kabul following a coup attempt blamed on Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay.

The pro-resistance Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said that the message mentioned the 1st Corps and the 11th Division of the Afghan Army based in Jalalabad, some 120 kilometers (72 miles) east of Kabul.

According to AIP, quoting mujahidin sources in Peshawar, northwestern Pakistan, the message also said that a

"high ranking" army officer had been captured in Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar province.

Severe clashes between troops loyal to President Najibullah and supporters of Gen. tanai were also reported in the Sarobi District, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Kabul on the road to Jalalabad, the agency said.

Mujahidin sources said repeatedly that the Bagram Airbase, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of Kabul, was under air attack. The air base is said to be in the hands of Gen. Tanay's supporters.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul, monitored here, said that the deadline for surrender of the mutineers had been extended until midnight Wednesday (1730 GMT).

AFP Reports Continued Fighting 7 Mar

BK0703090490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Islamabad, March 7 (AFP)—Fighting continued Wednesday [7 March] in Kabul and at an airbase a day after the government said a coup attempt against President Najibullah had been crushed, Western and Afghan resistance sources in Pakistan said.

The pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY said the Bagram base 50 kilometres north of the capital had been bombed by Soviet aircraft supporting the government.

The agency, which is close to Gulbuddin Hikmatyar's rebel Hezb-e Eslami party, said that one Soviet plane had been shot down Wednesday morning as it was attacking the base.

The base was said to be in the hands of troops supporting Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, who Mr. Najibullah claims plotted Tuesday's coup attempt with Mr. Hikmatyar.

In a broadcast monitored here, Mr. Najibullah said Gen. Tanay was still at large and called on loyal troops to capture him.

Western diplomats in Islamabad who were in contact with Kabul also said fighting was continuing in the Afghan capital.

Unidentified planes had tried to launch raids on the city Wednesday morning but had been beaten off by anti-aircraft fire, they said.

In a news conference here Tuesday Mr. Hikmatyar expressed support for any action which might replace the Najibullah government with an Islamic regime, but would not confirm or deny allegations that he plotted the coup attempt with Gen. Tanay.

Mr. Najibullah said on Radio Kabul that Gen. Tanay was "still in flight", adding, "I call especially on the troops to capture Tanay and give him the punishment which he deserves," according to Radio Kabul.

The radio asked several times for members of "all the organisations" of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), and particularly the youth [words indistinct] "take arms" and gather in their respective headquarters.

The broadcast was seen here as an admission that the situation was not yet under control.

The broadcast speech Wednesday by Mr. Najibullah, who had said late Tuesday that the coup had failed, gave only a short list of important buildings in Kabul held by his supporters.

They included the Defence Ministry, the offices of the armed forces chief of staff, and the signals headquarters of the Army's 52nd Brigade.

Troops loyal to Mr. Najibullah before dawn Wednesday captured the Defence Ministry held by rebel troops and seized eight rebel generals, Kabul's ambassador to India said in New Delhi.

"I spoke personally to President Najibullah myself late last night (by radio communication) and his voice was very strong and confident," Ambassador Ahmad Sarwar said.

Mr. Sarwar said the Defence Ministry, an old royal palace on the northwestern edge of the capital, had been captured at about 4:00 a.m. Wednesday (2130 GMT Tuesday).

"A lot of the plotters are surrendering," he quoted the Afghan president as saying, adding that "there is no more fighting" in the center of the city around the presidential palace. [passage omitted]

Plane Said Carrying Generals Lands in Pakistan

BK0703113690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1130 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Mar 7 (AFP)—A Soviet-made Antonov transport aircraft with at least 12 people on board, including top Afghan Air Force and military officials, landed Wednesday [7 March] in northwestern Pakistan, resistance sources said.

There were three generals and four brigadiers on board the plane which landed at about 01:00 p.m. (0800 GMT) in Parachinar town, close to the Afghan border, pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said.

Another resistance source, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA), close to the Hezb-e Eslami faction of Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, said that 18 people were on board.

Some reports said that the Afghan Air Force chief was on board. But it was not immediately possible to get official confirmation from the Pakistani Government.

Najibullah Reportedly Flees Kabul; Tanay Advances

BK0703103090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] According to informed sources in Islamabad, Dr. Najibullah has fled Kabul and has gone to a former Soviet base. Soldiers loyal to Defense Minister General Shahnawaz Tanay are advancing and are expected to be successful anytime today. The sources say that the forces loyal to Gen. Tanay have damaged Radio Kabul, ceasing its broadcasts.

Meanwhile, an Afghan plane flew out of Afghanistan and has landed in Pakistani territory.

According to the informed sources, about four divisions of the Afghan Army are taking part in the mutiny against the Najibullah regime. It is understood from initial reports that Defense Minister Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay had the support of 8th, 7th, and 15th Divisions; and later in the afternoon yesterday, 37th Commando Brigade also joined Tanay in the mutiny against Dr. Najibullah. It is understood that the 8th Brigade and the air defense forces have also defected to Defense Minister Tanay.

Najibullah Takes Refuge in Embassy

BK0703154090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] According to reports received in Peshawar from across the Durand Line, fierce fighting is still continuing in and around Kabul, and Kabul airport has come under intense shelling. The report just received says that the Kabul airport has been completely closed, and a major section of it has been occupied amd is now under mujahidin control. Seven Scud missiles were fired from (Wazaresham) region and fell on Kabul, inflicting serious damage to the bases of pro-Najibullah troops. Fierce fighting is continuing in streets and alleys of the Afghan capital, and Dr. Najibullah has fled and taken refuge in an embassy.

Informed sources have said that the forces loyal to former defense minister Shanawaz Tanay and are expected to enter Kabul any time. They said that Kabul Radio has been destroyed, putting it off the air. However, the administration is broadcasting its announcements and statements from an underground station named (Watanjad).

These sources said the present Afghan situation was not unexpected. The situation reflects the reaction of the Armed Forces to Dr. Najibullah's refusal to give up power.

Reports received from Kabul says about four division of the army are fighting against the Najibullah administration. The defense minister initially received the support of the seventh, eighth, and fifteenth divisions, while the 37th Commando Brigade later joined the forces loyal to General Tanay.

According to reports the entire air force of Kabul administration has joined the rebellion against Dr. Najibullah.

According to agency reports, General Tanay, who is in the vicinity of Kabul, has taken control of a transmitter and is calling on mujahidin to help him oust Dr. Najibullah from power.

It is now known that an artillery brigade and Aircraft Defense Forces have also joined General Tanay.

Troops loyal to General Tanay now control the Bagram airport. The troops taking part in rebellion are carrying out heavy attacks on two regiments loyal to the Najibullah administration in Baghlan Province. Regiments stationed in Sarowbi and Barangak are also against the Najibullah administration.

According to reports the situation in Herat is deteriorating.

MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] has reported that the Kabul administration cannot foil the rebellion against Najibullah and the administration has become restive.

Earlier, the food convoys sent by Kabul administration to Gardez defected to the mujahidin, who are putting immense pressure on Khowst and Kabul.

The mujahidin leadership has announced that all those troops who lay down their arms in front of forces loyal to General Shahnawaz Tanay or to the mujahidin in any part of Afghanistan will be granted general amnesty.

Meanwhile, two Afghan aircraft fled and landed in Pakistan.

Mujahidin Sources Reportedly Say Coup 'Spreading'

BK0703141490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 7 Mar 90

[By Rene Slama]

[Excerpts] Islamabad, March 7 (AFP)—Renewed fighting was reported Wednesday [7 March] in Kabul and was spreading to other cities according to Afghan resistance sources despite claims by Afghan President Najibullah that his government was fully in control following Tuesday's coup attempt.

Senior mujahidin sources in Pakistan said that the coup attempt was "still serious" and fighting had spilled over to the east and also to the north along the strategic Salang Highway linking Kabul with the Soviet border.

"There is severe fighting in many places," a mujahidin leader said. "Najibullah is certainly not in control." [passage omitted]

Senior Pakistan-based mujahidin sources reported fierce fighting in three cities to the east of Kabul—Jalalabad, Ghazni and Khowst while the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) said clashes were occurring

between troops loyal to Mr. Najibullah and supporters of Gen. [Shahnawaz] Tanay in the Sarobi district of Kabul, some 50 kilometers east of capital on the road to Jalalabad.

Western diplomats said their contacts in Kabul had reported continued fighting and that several diplomatic missions, including the empty Italian Embassy, had been damaged by bombs.

"Contrary to what Mr. Najibullah has claimed, it's not over," one diplomat said, describing the situation as "serious" and requiring "great prudence" on the part of Washington, the main backers of the Afghan resistance.

Unidentified planes had tried to launch raids on Kabul Wednesday morning but had been beaten off by anti-aircraft fire, the diplomats said.

On Wednesday several government and military officials had moved to different buildings, and Radio Kabul was broadcasting from a new station, diplomats here said. [passage omitted]

IRNA Reports Tanay Seeking Asylum in India

LD0703155590 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Lt.-Gen. Shahnawaz Tanay who masterminded the coup attempt against the marxist regime in Kabul yesterday, has reportedly fled to India and is seeking political asylum there, informed sources close to Afghan mujahidin said today.

The sources said that the former defence minister left Bagram Airport, 50 kms north of Kabul, aboard a military plane at 14:00 hours Kabul time today.

They also reported that five jet fighters were destroyed in an air raid on Bagram Airport by the Afghan Air Force today.

The sources belong to Afghanistan's Islamic Movement party led by Ayatollah Shaykh Asef Mohseni.

Najibullah Visits Victims of Coup Attempt

LD0703165290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] The president of Afghanistan and the supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah this afternoon visited Wazir Akbar Khan in hospital and saw the people who have been wounded as a result of the criminal action of Shahnawaz Tanay, the puppet of Gulbuddin. During the visit, the President of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah issued necessary instructions to the minister of public health and the medical staff and wished the wounded speedy recovery.

AIG Dissociates Itself From Coup Attempt

BK0703131690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 7 (AFP)—The provisional government-in-exile of the Afghan resistance movement officially dissociated itself Wednesday [7 March] from the coup attempt in Afghanistan.

Saying it had no "understanding of solidarity with either of the sides," a somber-toned communique issued by the Afghan Interim Government (AIG) added: "Neither are we ready to stand in one rank with the communists ... nor to live under a joint administration with them."

The communique, issued after an emergency meeting called by AIG President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi and received here, described the coup as arising from an "internal fight" between the Khalqis and the Parchamis, the two factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The statement implicitly dissociated the interim government, established after the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan in February 1989, from statements over the preceding 24 hours by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, head of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami mujahidin faction.

Afghan President Najibullah accused Mr. Hikmatyar of giving directives to sacked Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai, who Mr. Najibullah claims plotted the coup attempt with Mr. Hikmatyar.

Mr. Najibullah is the head of the ruling party's Parcham faction and Gen. Tanai a leading member of the rival Khalq faction.

At a press conference in Peshawar, the northwestern Pakistani city near the Afghan border where the Afghan resistance is based, Mr. Hikmatyar called on all guerrilla leaders to "unite and support the officers" conducting operations in several parts of Kabul as well as in eastern Jalalabad and at an air base north of Kabul.

On Tuesday Mr. Hikmatyar had expressed support for any action which might replace the Najibullah government with an Islamic regime, but would not confirm or deny allegations that he plotted the coup attempt with Gen. Tanai.

The AIG groups seven Sunni Moslem mujahidin factions including that of Mr. Hikmatyar, who in recent months has acted increasingly on his own.

The AIG communique also said, "Those who defect from either side and seek asylum with you should be granted asylum."

"In the meantime," the rebel government called on "all mujahidin commanders inside Afghanistan" to "bring the enemies' centers nearest to you under your control."

BBC Correspondent Views Kabul Coup Attempt

BK0703042590 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 7 Mar 90

[From "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The main story concerns events in Afghanistan. Tension between President Najibullah and his defense minister, General Shahnawaz Tanay, has waxed and waned since the Soviet withdrawal last year. Most recently, it flared up after the security forces arrested more than 100 people including senior military officer for their alleged involvement in antigovernment plots. And yesterday, it was reported that Gen. Tanay tried to overthrow his rival. In a television broadcast, the president said the plot had failed and that no effort should be spared to capture its leader dead or alive. Communications with the Afghan capital have been severely disrupted, but Lyce Doucet has been monitoring the situation from neighboring Pakistan, from where she sent this extended dispatch:

[Begin recording] President Najibullah described the coup attempt as antihomeland and antipeace. A number of its leaders had been crushed, he said. Some were arrested or had surrendered. The president in his televised speech described the ex-defense minister, Gen. Tanay, as the ring leader. The Defense Ministry, which was the focus of fierce fighting, has been captured, according to the Afghan High Command. But Gen. Tanay is reported to have fled. Most telex and telephone lines into Kabul have been cut, so there are few independent accounts of the situation there.

The Soviet news agency TASS reported that loyal troops had mopped up the main pockets of resistance. But there have been reports of sporadic artillery and rocket fire. President Najibullah is also blaming one of the main guerrilla parties led by Gulbuddin Hikmatyar and foreign enemies, an apparent reference to the guerrillas' main allies—Pakistan and the United States. Mr. Hikmatyar has refused to confirm or deny his party's involvement. The guerrillas are known to have secret networks in Kabul which penetrate senior levels of the armed forces. More importantly, however, tensions between the president and his defense minister have mounted over the past year since the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. At times, they were on the brink of armed confrontation with both generals mobilizing their forces in self-defense. Gen. Tanay, known as a hardliner, had argued for a more aggressive military strategy to root out guerrilla forces. He put up stiff resistance to proposals designed to rid the ruling pro-Soviet party of its communist identity. And he resented President Najibullah's control over the elite unit. To a large extent, personality clashes were at the root of the problem. Most Afghan leaders have been shot dead while in office. So far, President Najibullah appears to be one of the survivors.

The new defense minister, Lieutenant General Aslam Watanjar, in a brief radio broadcast ordered all armed personnel to defend their positions with vigilance and awareness. TASS news agency, in what they described as a report, urged all patriotic forces to unite to defend the national interests of Afghanistan in order to avoid events which could lead to tragic consequences. Soviet diplomats are known to have privately expressed concern in the past about conflicts between President Najibullah and Gen. Tanay. Last December when the two generals mobilized their forces, putting them as one diplomat put it—eyeball to eyeball—the Soviet ambassador to Kabul met both men and stressed the importance of party unity. Tensions between the president and Gen. Tanay had flared up then after security forces arrested what the government said were more 120 individuals including senior officers for alleged involvement in plots against the government in collusion with guerrilla forces. Gen. Tanay was not informed in advance and protested vehemently about the treatment of his men. The president later admitted in a BBC interview that he had released a number of senior officers at Gen. Tanay's request, though he maintained they weren't innocent. This reported coup attempt was staged as the trial which is getting underway in Kabul. [end recording]

Helsinki Radio Notes Afghan Airspace Restrictions

LD0703130490 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1030 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Finnair will have to fly to Banngkok, Thailand, along an exceptional route because the airspace over Afghanistan has been closed due to the attempted military coup. The planes wil fly to their destination along a more southern route over Pakistan and India. The change in the route will delay the Bangkok planes by a few hours.

Bangladesh

Pakistani Minister Khan Arrives To Discuss SAARC

BK0603161990 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Dhaka today on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. The Pakistan foreign minister, who is visiting Bangladesh as the envoy of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] chairperson, Benazir Bhutto, was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. Yaqub Khan said the main objective of his current visit is to review the progress of the SAARC activities, besides exchanging views on the SAARC summit. He said a consensus view is developing on the holding of the fifth SAARC summit.

Formal talks between the two foreign ministers will be held tomorrow. During his stay in Dhaka, the Pakistan foreign minister will call on President Ershad. He will

also meet Vice President Moudud Ahmed, Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, and Commerce Minister M.A. Sattar.

Ershad Returns 5 Mar Following Trip to Thailand

BK0603140790 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] President Ershad returned to Dhaka Monday [5 March] night after addressing the opening session of the world conference on education in Thailand. The president addressed the conference as a special guest. He also had talks with the Thai prime minister, Mr. Chatchai Chunhawan, on bilateral cooperation.

India

Dialogue With Political Parties on Kashmir Begins

BK0603145990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Government has begun a dialogue with all political parties on the situation in the Kashmir Valley. The prime minister today held separate rounds of discussions on the issue with leaders of various left parties and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Those who had meetings with him are the BJP leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee; Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; Mr. Indrajit Gupta, CPI; and Mr. Piyush Tidke, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party].

Mr. V.P. Singh, who already had a discussion with the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, yesterday is again meeting him this evening. The prime minister has also invited the leader of the opposition and Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, for consultations. A formal letter from Mr. Singh was sent to Mr. Gandhi earlier in the day.

Our correspondent understands that the two leaders are scheduled to meet late in the evening.

An official spokesman told newsmen today that the series of meetings are in conformity with the center's desire to associate everyone with national issues like Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the state government today transferred the superintendent of police [SP] of Anantnag on grounds of ineffectiveness and suspended another SP who has been absenting from duty for over a month.

Six employees of the state were dismissed, including the junior engineer, who was found to be sending groups of people to Pakistan for training. In its drive against subversives, the state administration yesterday night arrested 12 persons engaged in organizing secessionist activities.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has called for restarting the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. In a letter to the prime minister, he also stressed the need for evolving a national consensus on Kashmir, which he said is a national issue in both its internal aspect as well as in respect of Pakistani interference and subversion in the valley. Welcoming the government's proposal for an all-party meeting on Kashmir, Mr. Gandhi requested that this may be convened urgently.

Jammu, Kashmir Curfew Relaxed in 'Phased Manner'

BK0603092890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew was relaxed today in a phased manner in Srinagar city and some other towns of the valley. In Srinagar, it was relaxed for four hours from 0500 [2330 GMT]. The curfew was also relaxed in Bargam, Chaturan, (Birwa), Magam from 0500 to 1600, while in (Phukwara) and Tregam it was relaxed from 0800 to 1600. In Hindwana, curfew was relaxed from 1000 to 1600.

Meanwhile, the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, is discussing the situation in Jammu and Kashmir with the representatives of various political parties in New Delhi today. Leaders of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], the Congress-I, the National Conference, and the left parties have been invited for these discussions separately.

As already reported, the prime minister has underlined the need to involve the people of the state in bringing back the situation to normal.

'Militants' Fire During Break

BK0603115290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 6 Mar 90

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Srinagar, India, March 6 (AFP)—Moslem militants seeking a plebiscite on Kashmir state's future fired Tuesday [6 March] at security forces during a brief curfew break in the state's summer capital here, but there was no immediate word on casualties.

The gunmen opened fire at security forces at two places in this mainly Moslem city of 800,000 that has been under a round-the-clock curfew enforced by army and paramilitary troops since early Friday, witnesses said.

The firing sparked off a gun battle at Bohrikadal District just before a four-hour curfew relaxation ended at 9 a.m. (0330 GMT) and around the same time in the nearby area of Batamloo, witnesses said. Both attacks were blamed on Moslems campaigning for a plebiscite to determine whether the population wants independence or Indian rule for northern Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

No further details were immediately available.

Residents said thousands of people, shut indoors almost continuously since Friday [2 March], rushed out to make

essential purchases from the few shops which opened during Tuesday's curfew break.

Authorities had relaxed the curfew Monday [5 March] for three hours.

Army troops and paramilitary forces deployed here to assist the civilian administration were later seen cruising through Srinagar in armed convoys, with orders to shoot curfew violators on sight. The curfew, which was clamped a day after widespread Moslem separatist violence left nearly 40 people dead, has paralysed life in this once idyllic summer resort. Troopers from the paramilitary border security force (BSF) were seen standing poised with their guns at every street corner and behind sand-bagged pillboxes at other places.

Residents complained that even visits to hospitals and doctors were banned during the curfew. "My patients ring me up with SOS calls but I am helpless," said a doctor, Saifulla Alam, speaking over the telephone.

Passengers flying in from New Delhi are herded into buses and take under armed escort to a tourist centre, which is now teeming with stranded passengers from previous flights.

"We will not relax the curfew for a moment because if we do, hundreds will be on the streets again," a BSF commander told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. The reference was to the mass protests that Moslem militant groups have repeatedly organised here, demanding Kashmir's independence from India, but which officials say invariably spark violence.

Correspondents from virtually all Indian newspapers have left Srinagar to the relative safety of Jammu, the state's winter capital, following an official warning that they were soft targets for Moslem separatists.

The Moslems want a plebiscite to decide if Kashmiris want to remain with India and accuse the Indian reporters of ignoring their secessionist campaign that has claimed nearly 160 lives by unofficial count this year.

Moslem politicians here speak of escalating shortages of food and medicines due to the curfew.

Unofficial reports say that diehard Moslems here continue to defy the curfew and take to the narrow lanes of the city screaming anti-India slogans and abuse at the passing Indian patrols.

Besides Srinagar, 27 other towns and cities of the Kashmir valley have also been under curfew since Friday.

India blames Pakistan for the Moslem unrest in Kashmir. Pakistan denies helping the secessionists, but has expressed support to the homeland campaign and this week called for international support for the protestors.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since 1947.

Non-Congress-I Government Installed in Gujarat

BK0403102990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Mr. Chimanbhai Patel was sworn in as the chief minister of Gujarat of a non-Congress-I coalition government at an impressive ceremony at the Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] in Gandhinagar a short while ago. The governor, Mr. R.K. Trivedi, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr Patel. Mr. Keshubhai Patel, a senior BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader who is to be the deputy chief minister in the coalition ministry, also took the oath of office and secrecy at the same function. [passage omitted]

Arunachal Pradesh Congress-I Ministry Sworn In

BK0703080990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] In Arunachal Pradesh, a nine-member Congress-I ministry headed by Mr. Gegong Apang was sworn in in Itanagar this morning. The state governor, Mr. R.D. Pradhan, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Apang and eight of his cabinet colleagues at an impressive ceremony at Raj Bhavan [Governor's House].

After taking the oath, Mr. Apang told our correspondent that he will give top priority for the development of road communication and health services. He also said that expansion of the ministry will take place at the earliest. He said he will visit Delhi for final consultations with the party high command in this connection. Mr. Apang assumes office as chief minister for the third time in succession.

Gandhi Presides Over Party Meeting on Elections

BK0403074290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] The Congress-I working committee met in New Delhi yesterday. The meeting was presided over by the party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] general secretary, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent after the meeting that it reviewed the political situation after the assembly elections.

13 Killed in Punjab; Sikh Leader Killed in South

BK0403163190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1615 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 4 (AFP)—Thirteen more people died in Punjab in violence linked to Sikh separatism in the northern state while a Sikh leader was murdered in India's south, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Sunday [4 March].

Five suspected Sikh militants were killed late Saturday [3 March] in two separate gun battles blamed on internecine feuds among rival Sikh separatist factions in the

troubled state, PTI said. Both the shootouts occured in Amritsar, the centre of Sikh militancy that flared in 1983 with a call for a separatist campaign to carve out a Sikh homeland called Khalistan in Punjab.

The news agency said a Sikh religious leader was killed late Saturday by two unknown Sikhs in southern Andhra Pradesh state capital Hyderabad. The killers carrying daggers attacked and killed Temple Management Committee Vice President Dayal Singh, PTI said, without elaborating.

In Punjab, Sikh assassins also killed two government guards in Amritsar City and gunned down a paramilitary trooper in an ambush in the Bhikiwind area, PTI said and added that a police party which tried to counter the ambush was also attacked.

Four corpses, including that of a woman, were found with bullet marks in Amritsar Sunday, and the police said the killings appeared to be linked to separatist-led violence.

PTI said the 13th murder by Sikh militants occured late Saturday in the frontier Punjab district of Ferozepur, taking the year's toll of separatist-linked deaths in the northern state to some 200.

Constable, Sikh 'Militants' Killed in Punjab

BK0603010890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1935 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] New Delhi, March 5 (AFP)—Sikh militants killed a police constable Monday after 11 people, including eight militants and an alleged border intruder from Pakistan, died in violence across northern India's Punjab State overnight, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

Sikh gunmen shot dead Constable Ajit Singh in Birbalpura village in Punjab's frontier District of Amritsar Monday, police quoted by PTI said.

Paramilitary Indian security forces shot dead an unidentified person when he illegally crossed into India from Pakistan in Punjab's Khem Karan area late Sunday [4 March], officials were quoted as saying in Chandigarh, the state capital.

Two Sikh militants, identified as Paramjit Singh and Bacchitar Singh, died after a gunfight with security forces in Punjab's Majitha police district, PTI said. Six more Sikh militants, all involved in factional fights, and two civilians were killed elsewhere across Punjab, the news agency said.

Some 200 people have died so far this year in violence linked to the bloody Sikh separatist campaign for an independent homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure, in Punjab.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani: Hostage Issue 'To Be Solved'

LD0703111590 Tehran IRNA in English 1040 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 7, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said on Wednesday that the issue of the Western hostages held in Lebanon is going to be solved.

"There have been no negotiations with the U.S. and we only have received messages on this issue by Western politicians who have come to Iran," the president told a press conference here.

He said "The issue of the hostages does not concern us at all. Of course, the U.S. and Britain have time and again requested us to use our influence in Lebanon for the release of the hostages. "And we have told them that we will use our influence only when they mutually use their influence for the release of Iranian hostages and also reduce their mischievous acts."

On the Iran-U.S. talks, he said "we are holding negotiations with the U.S. at the International Court of Justice in The Hague on legal issues. [no closing quotation marks as received]

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added "I and my friends like the issue to be settled since the United States and others are exploiting the matter as a means for branding the Lebanese as terrorists and so they are not seriously seeking a solution."

"The timing of statements made by Allamah Sayyid Husayn Fadlallah and an article by an English daily on the release of the hostages seem to have created some hope. And they themselves have established contacts with regional governments and my feeling is that the issue of the hostages is moving towards a solution."

Lebanese Islamic Leader Comments on Hostages

LD0603203790 Tehran IRNA in English 1439 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 6, IRNA—The head of Lebanon's Islamic Tawhid Movement today said that no Palestinian had the right to recognize the occupation of Palestine by negotiating with the Zionist Entity.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban also termed the presence of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in Lebanon as a "legitimate task," noting that "no one has the right to prevent them from entering Lebanon."

"We hope to be able to fight alongside our Sudanese brethren against Colonel John Garang's crusaders in southern Sudan," Sha'ban told IRNA.

Adverting to the Palestinian issue, Sha'ban said "negotiations with Israel would mean recognition of its occupation of Palestine and a treason against the Palestinian cause."

"It is a pity that some are taking steps towards a compromise with the U.S. and Israel by selling out their religion and their nation's dignity while even Palestinian children have risen up against the Zionists," the ITM head said.

Commenting on the issue of western hostages held in Lebanon, Sha'ban stressed "the issue should not be separated from the captivity of the Palestinian nation by Israel and its supporters."

"How is it that all are trying to release a few western hostages and are setting up hullabaloo over the issue while at the same time the Palestinian nation has been in the hands of Zionists for years." Therefore, he added, it would be better to say nothing about issue.

Elsewhere in the interview, the Lebanese alim [scholar] condemned the influx of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine and said it was incumbent upon all Muslim states to prevent the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union or elsewhere into the Palestinian land.

The ITM head described the battle between rival Christian groups in eastern Beirut as efforts aimed at "taking more concessions from Muslims."

"We as Muslims will continue our battle against Christian Maronites and Zionists but will not allow global arrogance to implement its plots in Lebanon," he said.

***Paper Reports Yazdi Call for Release of Hostages**

90OI0189A London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 90 p 2

[Interview with Chief Justice Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi by TEHRAN TIMES on 25 February; place not given]

[Text] In an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES on Sunday, 25 February, Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi, the chief justice of the Islamic Republic regime, considered hostage taking and kidnapping contrary to Islamic principles and endorsed the position of this newspaper and the efforts of the "moderate" faction towards the release of hostages. He said: "The Islamic Republic opposes hostage taking, terrorism, and airplane hijacking, because such actions are contrary to Islamic and humanitarian principles."

The position of Mohammad Yazdi indicates the increased support within the regime for the efforts to release the hostages. Over the Salman Rushdie incident, he had recently opposed Rafsanjani and, in a violent tone, supported the killing of the British writer and Khomeyni's decree regarding his being killed.

The statements of Sheykh Mohammad Yazdi were made after six weeks of rumors and various reports being spread on secret and semi-secret meetings between the representatives of Washington and Tehran in Geneva, Paris, and Oman, when TEHRAN TIMES, published in Tehran, demanded that the 18 Western hostages kidnapped by Shi'ite terrorist groups be released unconditionally, regardless of their nationality. This is the first time that an official newspaper in Tehran has openly demanded the release of the hostages.

TEHRAN TIMES, which is published in English, speaks for the moderate faction in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic and supports Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

TEHRAN TIMES writes: "The time has come for all the hostages to be freed unconditionally, because their continued detainment has resulted in widespread negative propaganda against the Islamic Republic."

TEHRAN TIMES writes that the hostages are in fact the victims of the policies of Western imperialism, and although the fight against Western influence in the Middle East must continue, at the same time, all the Lebanese forces must strive to release the hostages. TEHRAN TIMES recommends that the Muslim forces release the hostages on humanitarian grounds and adds: "1990 may be the year for the release of all hostages."

The timing of Yazdi's statements simultaneous with the publication of the above-mentioned article in TEHRAN TIMES, with the increased speculation concerning secret negotiations between the United States and the Islamic Republic, and also the presence of ibn 'Alawi, the minister of state for foreign affairs of the government of Oman, whose government, it is said, plays an important role in the negotiations between Washington and Tehran, as well as his extensive meetings in Tehran, have been significant enough for TEHRAN TIMES to raise the issue. Western news sources consider the subject of the present negotiations between the United States and the Islamic Republic a determining factor for the American hostages.

The newspaper, INDEPENDENT, published in London, which featured the TEHRAN TIMES article as its main news item, states: "The point in the TEHRAN TIMES article is that the issue of hostages, regardless of its original causes, is hurting the Islamic Republic at the present time. Also, considering the changes in Eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War, it is feared that the Islamic Republic will be rejected by both superpowers."

INDEPENDENT adds that on Tuesday, Rafsanjani said in the Majles that the events which have changed Eastern Europe might make Iran more vulnerable than ever before. He said: "Many of the resources that independent nations possessed to confront the superpowers are being destroyed as the conflicts have gradually turned into understanding. This might result in a change in the direction of the elements hostile to us."

Nevertheless, all Western press analysts have expressed the opinion that the fate of the hostages continues to depend on the results of the power struggle between the leaders of the Islamic government.

Among the Western hostages in Lebanon, there are eight Americans, one Irishman, and four Britishers. Terry Anderson, who was taken hostage in 1985, has been

detained longer than the others. Another hostage is Terry Waite, the special envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury, concerning whose death or transfer to Iran many rumors have been spread. After the publication of the TEHRAN TIMES article, Dr. Robert Runcie, the archbishop of Canterbury, said: "This is hopeful news, and it is encouraging that the issue of the release of the hostages has been raised directly by Tehran."

In addition, Sheykh Muhammad Husayn Fadhlallah, who is known in the West as the spiritual leader of the Hezbollah in Lebanon, shortly after the publication of the above-mentioned article in Tehran on Friday demanded the release of the hostages, saying that they have become anti-Islamic propaganda tools. Those acquainted with Middle East issues estimate the role of Fadhlallah as more than that of a "spiritual leader" in the terrorist movement of the Hezbollah.

Last week, when the issue of the release of the Western hostages was raised in Tehran, a group of members of the central council of the Lebanese Hezbollah was in Tehran. This group met with Rafsanjani and, according to a report on Tehran radio, gave him "a detailed report on the situation in Lebanon and the region." Although the regime did not reveal the details of the discussions and the meetings of this group in Tehran, undoubtedly the issue of the release of the hostages topped the talks between the officials of the regime and the leaders of the Hezbollah.

Another reason that the regime has had to think about the release of the hostages in Lebanon is the issue of the relations between the Islamic Republic and the Arab countries in the region. A TEHRAN TIMES editorial referring to this issue states: Nineteen months after the Iran-Iraq war, the Islamic Republic still is considered dangerous in the opinion of some moderate Arab governments.

Hence, the government of Hashemi-Rafsanjani is trying to improve the image of the Islamic Republic through adopting a more moderate stance and avoiding the extremists of the past 11 years. Rafsanjani's statements in the Friday prayer sermon two weeks ago, which called the importance of the decree for the killing of Salman Rushdie by Khomeyni the opinion of an "expert" and reduced it to the level of the opinion of a "religious interpreter of problems," are considered another effort in this direction. Nevertheless, in the opinion of almost all observers, it is very doubtful whether Rafsanjani can continue to implement this policy.

It is expected that the greatest opposition to the release of the Western hostages will be started by 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the former minister of interior and the present Majles representative (who officially began his position as a representative last week with Tahlif [oath taking] ceremonies). Mohtashemi, who is a staunch opponent of Rafsanjani and enjoys the support of Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, regularly provokes the Hezbollah of Lebanon. Last month, Mohtashemi had said that hostage taking is "the natural right of the Islamic groups in Lebanon, so that with such actions, they inflict heavy blows against their enemies."

Radio Rejects Compromise With United States

LD0703095490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] One of the essential and outstanding features of the Islamic revolution, which has increased its influential role in the world, was its anti-American stance. This great index, which somehow makes up the main essence of the revolution, was the basis of 10 years of direct and all-out war between the two systems of justice and injustice. The overthrow of the shah, leading to the decline of U.S. regional power, and after that the occupation of the espionage den, were two severe psychological blows to U.S. prestige and foreign policy in the region.

The imposed war, the fruit of the imperialist will of the White House statesmen, was launched in order to defeat the Islamic revolution in the region and the world of Islam. The war brought a new phase in the increasing and relentless struggle of the Islamic revolution against the illegitimate U.S. presence in the entire Islamic world. The United States, as the main agent responsible for the outbreak of Iraq's eight-year war against Iran, wore a veil of neutrality in the beginning. But when it saw the ever-increasing power of the revolution in the military and political arenas, it was forced to reveal its overt, direct, and aggressive stance against the Islamic revolution.

One of the traditional tactics adopted by U.S. policymakers in the confrontation against such anti-imperialist revolutions as the Islamic revolution of Iran is to leave the doors open for compromise and reconciliation, while exerting its heavy and unbearable pressure. Of course the Islamic revolution has not been exempt from this role. The main feature of current U.S. policies toward the Islamic revolution is to publicize the point that the only alternative open to the government of the Islamic Republic for its survival is to restore ties with Washington. But the Islamic revolution, which by nature is engaged in an uncompromising opposition to the United States, cannot accept such a way of thinking under any circumstances. The United States has pointed out that the main channels for resuming relations are through the settlement of Iran's problems such as the imposed war and the country's reconstruction. But our main policy toward the United States should be made through blocking these channels from a position of strength. For, if we were to abandon the only vital element of the revolution in the arena of its global struggle against the present plundering system of the world, that is, the struggle against the United States, it would lead us to losing the identity and strategic aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

Navy To Add Submarines, Sophisticated Systems

LD0603212690 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—The Islamic Republic is planning to add submarines to its defence power, said Navy commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Sham'khani Tuesday.

"The Navy is also to acquire sophisticated air and sea defence systems, besides submarines," Sham'khani told a press conference here.

The modern equipment to be added to the Navy within during the five year plan would be manned by trained experts, he said.

Sham'khani also lauded the Navy experts for their success in repairing and launching the frigate 'Sabalan' damaged in a U.S. naval attack on an Iranian off-shore oil platform in the Persian Gulf two years ago.

Paper Comments on Afghan Coup Attempt

LD0703112490 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March, 7, IRNA—A Persian-language daily Wednesday commented on the aborted Tuesday coup attempt in Afghanistan to topple Najibullah's regime.

The morning daily ABRAR said that collaboration of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's forces with Najib's Defense Minister Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanai, as revealed by informed sources in "The Islamic Movement of Afghanistan," is a further proof that "groups opposing the Kabul regime do not consider Najibullah a catalyst for transfer of power."

The editorial, titled: "Coup in Kabul or Transfer of Power?" said that it will take sometime for further information to become available about the coup and those behind it. Neither Washington nor Moscow has yet made an explicit comment on the development, it added.

The coup attempt in Kabul at a time when political activities to find solution to Afghanistan crisis had been intensified in the past few months, has been interpreted by observers as an attempt by the West to hold the initiative in future developments in that country.

Radio Commentary

LD0703142590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the wake of some reports on the exchange of gunfire in several districts of Kabul, particularly around the presidential palace and the defense ministry, it is said that a coup attempt was in progress. Reports from news services and diplomatic sources, however, indicate that anti-aircraft and heavy weapons have been used in intense fighting in the vicinity of the defense ministry and unidentified planes have bombed the presidential palace in Kabul. [passage omitted]

Observers believe that one of the reasons for the latest coup attempt in Afghanistan is the fact that the extremist wing of the ruling Khalq party and some of its supporters have been politically and militarily isolated in the country. Some doubts remain on the timing of the coup, for General Shahnawaz Tanai, member of the Marxist wing of the Khalq Party, was allowed to keep his status after his involvement in an earlier coup conspiracy in the month of Dey [20 December to 21 January].

Despite the fact that General Shahnawaz, in the position of defense minister, had no practical responsibility, it seems that the Najibullah regime and possibly Moscow have been waiting for an opportunity to watch the last efforts of the extremist wing of the ruling party, so that by collecting more intelligence reports they could neutralize once and for all the actions of this wing, which could in future endanger the national reconciliation plan and other similar programs of the Kabul regime. That is, the extremist wing had the ultimate potential to eliminate the ruling party gradually, which could endanger the Soviet interests in Afghanistan.

In the wake of some rumors on the cooperation and involvement of one group from the seven-party alliance of mojahedin, political analysts believe that the failure of the coup proves that going it alone will not succeed. In the wake of the latest coup, which will eventually lead to the elimination of the Khalq wing from the ruling party, the head of the Kabul regime, Najibullah, appointed Watanjar and Raz-Mohammad as the ministers of defense and interior. This means the two key positions, held by the Khalq wing so far, are now given to the Parcham wing.

The recent developments in the political-military sphere in Afghanistan are taking place at a time when, one year after the withdrawal of the last Soviet soldier from Afghan territory, the global powers are continuing their interference in that country's affairs. Arms supplies to the warring sides not only continues the bloodshed in this land, but has also deprived the Muslim people of Afghanistan from taking charge of their own destiny, following a lengthy struggle of 11 years against the occupiers and the Marxist regime. This matter cannot be ignored by the conscientious nations of the world and particularly the Muslims, despite the steps taken to deceive the world public. Afghanistan, this bleeding wound of South Asia—according to Mr. Gorbachev—not only has not found a cure, but rather its wound has deepened and its innocent and oppressed people continue to suffer.

It is necessary to reiterate the point that the Afghan Muslim strugglers should remain the main beneficiary of any solution to their country's problem; and no doubt

nothing will be achieved without their active participation. For the oppressed and Muslim people of Afghanistan the time has come now, in the wake of the developments in various regions of the world today, to gain their freedom and independence and establish an Islamic and nonaligned government, as they wish.

Rafsanjani Speaks on UN Report, Economy

LD0703121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani today, in an interview with local reporters, replied to their questions on various economic, political, and cultural topics as well as regional and world issues.

According to the Central News Unit, in this press interview, the president, describing the work of the government and executive bodies in the past six months, said: Our assessment of the forces engaged in executive tasks, is positive, and this is demonstrated by statistics and figures. Pointing to the trend of the implementation of the programs of the Islamic Republic system and the continuation of this trend on the basis of the views of the holy imam—may his soul be sanctified—Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The programs of the system are continuing and are still preserving their developmental trends in such a way that the enemies are despondent.

The president next referred to the report of the [UN] Human Rights [Commission] representative concerning the state of human rights in Iran and said: Contrary to the expectations of arrogance and counterrevolutionary media, the situation of the minorities inside the country and also the situation of prisoners in Iran was examined, and bearing in mind the existing state of world propaganda, certain aspects of realities were revealed in this report which proved how much the Islamic Republic has been victimized in the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: After the demise of his eminence the imam, the best of choices, that is, the choice of Ayatollah Khamene'i to the leadership of the revolution which was accompanied by divine guidance, was made, and the nearest person to the imam and the most competent individual, alert to the interests of the revolution, was selected by the Assembly of Experts. The president also added: During the time of his holiness the imam and up to today, there have been no shortcomings in terms of political, cultural issues and aspirations, and during the period of the war too, the spiritual dimensions of the revolution were highly strengthened and people always had high morale. The best proof of this claim is the march and support showed by the people on the anniversary of 22 Bahman [11 February] this year.

The president next referred to the problems that faced society due to conditions after the revolution: economic boycotts, the start of the imposed war and the newly born system of the Islamic Republic. He said: In spite of these [problems] and in accordance with the views of the world's economists, the Islamic Republic acted in the best of ways during the war from the standpoint of economic independence—but these problems should be eliminated after the war and one of the responsibilities of the new government which has come to power in the state of neither peace nor war is to change the state of people's lives and eliminate shortages.

Stressing the political and economic independence of the country Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the training of those who are skilled and compatible with the programs of the country. He remarked: We have certain difficulties in the fields of production, industry, transport and energy, and to remove these difficulties the necessary forecasts have been taken into account in the five-year program, and since six months ago, each of the ministries has been carrying out those tasks that concern their own particular ministries. The president added: Securing the labor force is the responsibility of the Ministries of Education and Training; Higher Education; Labor; Health, Treatment and Medical Training.

Presenting statistics on a comparison of the economic situation [now] with that of last year, the prsident said: The budget deficit during 1367 [1988] was 2,100 billion rials which fell in the current year [ending 20 March 1990] to 1,129 billion rials. In the field of money supply [naqdinegi], appromimately 19 percent has been added to people's deposits in banks, and the volume of cash in circulation consisting of notes and coins has decreased by 8.5 per cent. Also, due to foreign currency allocations to heavy and light industries, mines and trade, in the form of competitive rates of exchange, the income in rials of the government has increased and the budget deficit has fallen. Also, giving foreign exchange to industries and production units has resulted in the production of commodities and creation of jobs, in meeting people's demands and decreasing the money supply, and hence, in boosting commerce.

President Condemns 'Harassment' of Kashmiris

LD0703124990 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March, 7, IRNA—"The Islamic Republic will not accept anything outside the framework of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598," said President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

Addressing a press conference, he touched on various other issues among them the Westerners reportedly missing in Lebanon and the worsening situation in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

"We strongly condemn harassment of Kashmiri people," the Hojat ol-Eslam made it clear, and said that the Islamic Republic has asked India to adopt a more democratic attitude towards the issue.

"The Indian Government is making a mistake in this regard," he thought concerning the mass Muslim uprising in Kashmir, which New Delhi is trying to quell with military force.

He, however, added "We are not for strained relations with that country (India) but we believe the people have the right to determine their own destiny."

Azari-Qomi Editorial Responds to Karrubi

NC0603164690 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

["Part one" of Azari-Qomi editorial: "Remarks to the Esteemed Majles Speaker"]

[Text] Following my humble pre-sermon speech to the Tehran Friday congregation, the esteemed Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi made some remarks. These remarks indicate his inadequate information about our dear departed imam's culture regarding the absoluteness of the vice regency of the supreme juriconsult, the jurisprudential bases, and jurisprudence as well as the pure Islam of Muhammad (peace be upon him), and the Americanized Islam.

The characteristics of Americanized Islam and its primitive, outdated form stem from the lack of sincere faith in the absoluteness of the velayat [guardianship] of the present eminent leader. If Ayatollah Khamene'i and his auspicious leadership have the dear imam's endorsement, then they have the absolute velayat. If Khamene'i has the absolute velayat, then he has the power of the Majles, the Cabinet, the judiciary, the Armed Forces, and everyone else. Does the absolute velayat pertain basically to two people? Is it possible that during the imam's life, he was the absolute velayat as well as Ayatollah Khamene'i?

The eighth imam, peace be upon him, had said that Imam Hasan and Imam Husayn had equal excellence, but only one of the two noble people could become the imam and the leader. If someone said that after the great prophet of Islam the only leader was 'Ali, peace be upon him, and everyone should obey him, would it be sacrilege regarding the holy Prophet? Would it be an attack on the culture and path of that great personality? What kind of thinking is this? One should ask our Sunni brothers why they have termed themselves Sunnis or Ahl-e Sunnat? They will say that out of all those who follow Islam, they are the only ones who follow the Sunnat or the traditions of the Prophet while the others follow, for example, the path of 'Ali, peace be upon him. You are saying that we should only follow the imam's path according to the book of God and the imam's traditions! Did God's Prophet, peace be upon him, not finish his work and did he not specify what was necessary for his ummah until resurrection day? By the same logic, where is the need for the imam! This is exactly outdated, primitive thinking. This is Americanized Islam according to which some people ignore the leader's portraits, slogans, and rulings on the pretext of using "the imam's traditions."

This is exactly what Americanized Islam is. By using his eminence the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and showing respect and reverence to him, they are ignoring his most important precept—the rule of Islam, the absoluteness of the velayat, and the leadership. Yes, our people are vigilant and alert and can comprehend the issues. They truly support the oppressed and the pure Muhammadan Islam.

Why did the imam segregate the leadership from the marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation]? Did he want to resign from the marja'iyat? Was his remark that we cannot leave the Islamic country without a leader only relevant during his own lifetime or was it relevant after that? Was it the imam's bequest that whomever he had appointed to any organization or institution should remain there until the end of the world? Is it in the imam's will that all his orders regarding anyone or anything continue to be implemented until judgment day? Did he not say that time and place should be considered? Have the conditions stayed the same since the imam's demise, and will this continue? Did not His Holiness 'Ali, peace be upon him, say that it is possible that the circumstances of the time of the prophet, peace be upon him, could change, and if they did some of his injunctions would change?

I request the radio, the television, and the newspapers, particularly RESALAT, to disseminate the exact words of my pre-sermon speech to the Tehran Friday congregation so that the issue may be clarified.

The people recognize very well the group indulging in obstruction and hampering Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government programs. What answer will they give God? What answer will they give the imam? Do they think they are dealing with an ignorant and stupid nation? Have the people forgotten the imam's exhortations regarding the association of seminarians? The imam had said: "On my behalf, tell my revolutionary offspring that extremism will yield bad results. If they do not remain close to the esteemed association of seminarians, those who preach Americanized Islam will lure them in the future."

Are all of you unaware of my writings, which were done with the imam's affirmation, on the absoluteness of the rule of the supreme jurisconsult during his eminence the imam's life? Who were those who defended the absoluteness of the rule of the supreme jurisconsult in the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution?

Are not the events which have occurred in the world since the imam's demise recent and new phenomena happening in the post-imam period? Who is going to delineate their obligations? Were these mentioned in the manifesto of brotherhood that the imam formulated?

We do consider the imam an extraordinary human being, one who wrought a miracle in this century. This does not mean however, that the imam formulated each and every issue that would come up in the future, and that we became so self-sufficient regarding science and jurisprudence that we would no longer need any leadership. If we love the imam, then we should implement his most important bequest with cohesion and unity and not

be oblivious to the internal and external enemies. We should extend the hand of friendship and fraternity to each other. We should defend this most important scientific and jurisprudential precept—the rule of the supreme jurisconsult, which today is on His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i's shoulders with all its absoluteness.

Further on Azari-Qomi Retort

NC0603190090 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

["Part two" of Azari-Qomi editorial: "Remarks to the Esteemed Majles Speaker"]

[Text] There is no doubt that whatever is necessary for man's salvation is stated in the Koran. The holy Prophet, peace be upon him, said that he told us what brings a person closer to heaven and further from hell, but he added: Whoever considers me his master, 'Ali is his master as well.

The dear imam, may God be pleased with him, removed the numerous veils of ambiguity and ignorance but at the same time stressed Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership. That dear person explained the articles and bases of various topics. His important politico-divine will would have been enough by itself, and he would not have insisted on appointing a successor.

Despite the Koran being comprehensive and the holy Prophet, peace be upon him, being its best implementor and in view of the circumstances of time and place, the holy Prophet appointed a leader to implement the divine laws. Everyone is aware that appointing the infallible imams did not in any way contravene the Koran and the traditions of the Prophet, peace be upon him. Appointing a leader for our era and obeying the decrees of the guardian of the Muslims' cause has been inspired by the comprehensive and detailed politico-divine will of our late, departed imam. This will has delineated the culture of the Islam of Muhammad, peace be upon him, and does not conflict with the great leader of the revolution's leadership.

Regarding the remarks you made saying if the Majles is taken away from us, we will speak in mosques and at gatherings and on street corners, what kind of remarks are these? Does anyone wish to take the Majles away from you? Does anyone wish to prevent you from talking? If suspicion and doubt are to prevail, then possibly some will say that some people are upset because they think their position and power are in danger. Is it more important to obey God or the imam? The Koran ordains: "He who obeys the apostle obeys God." Hence, we say that it is necessary to obey the imam, but it must be done by obeying the leader. According to our late imam, may God be pleased with him, if the vali is authorized to waive prayers, fasting, and the Hajj pilgrimmage because of changes or to benefit the system, then Ayatollah Khamene'i is authorized to change the imam's injunctions if the circumstances change.

Of course we can never say that the imam has changed the injunctions of Islam, but we can say that because of the change in circumstances, he did not rule out such possibilities when the system was in danger. In the same way, we are not saying that Ayatollah Khamene'i can change all the imam's directives or that he will change them. Instead we say that in certain cases, when circumstances change, in the words of the imam himself, may God be pleased with him, it is possible that the directives will change.

Those who know of the bases of jurisprudence and jurisprudents know that the dear imam enjoyed a position between the two lofty levels of marja'iyat [state of being a source of emulation] and jurisdiction on which he based his utterances, his enlightened guidance, and his auspicious jurisprudential opinions and decrees. Previously he believed in most of this as well, but there was no occasion to bring it up. Such an occasion could be the issue of the mines, the working conditions mentioned in the labor laws [not further explained], the Islamic Government's rights, the state punishments and the right to mete these out, the lawfulness of playing chess if it does not involve gambling, viewing men and women on television without any lustful intentions and without aspersions on them, the lawfulness of music which is not used to excite, and so on.

These are all examples of the jurisprudential blessings of the dear imam which are decrees in themselves and can be emulated even after the noble person's demise. In my humble opinion, an action or instruction to commit a certain action does not legitimize the action for eternity, and those who are newly initiated are authorized to emulate the late imam. I say this based of my beliefs and not as flattery or sycophancy of this one or that one. I consider myself responsible for these utterances.

However, consider other matters like ordering Salman Rushdie's execution. That was not a decree or opinion that could be changed because it was irrevocable. All Muslims of the world consent, and therefore the imam, as the Muslims' leader in charge of implementing the jurisprudential decree, considered time and place and did not even fear the economic and political impact as some feared he would. We saw how it would benefit Islam and the Muslims from every point of view.

Ayatollah Khamene'i also endorsed the decree with fervor and enthusiasm and did not leave any room for doubt or hope for world arrogance. If the imam, may God be pleased with him, had changed his position God forbid, would it be based on desire or greed or to benefit the system? What we are saying is that Ayatollah Khamene'i should be able to do the same without any remarks weakening the hallowed eternal spirit [of the imam].

My affection and reverence for that great man of God are like milk and sugar dissolved together. They have been instilled in me with love and, God willing, will never be separated from me. The issue is the leadership continuing as our dear imam wanted, since perpetuating the leadership, the system, and the velayat are linked to continuation of the leadership.

We wish to say that the opinions of certain individuals, who think that leadership is confined to only our dear, late imam, are opposing the very precepts propounded by the great imam himself. Above all, these opinions oppose the clear injunctions of the Koran and the prophet's traditions and, as the holy Koran states, are part of "...if any did turn back on his heels." [part of Koranic verse]

Our nation is immersed in the imam's being and considers the leadership of leaders after the imam the outcome of that dear, departed one's efforts and struggles. However, our nation also believes that by completely accepting the leader of the revolution, it will be able to give a tangible form to his politico-divine and jurisprudential injunctions as "He who obeys the apostle obeys God, but if any turn away, we have not sent thee to watch over their evil deeds." [Koranic verse]

Karrubi Speaks to Majles on 'Pure Islam'

NC0503200090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
25 Feb 90 p 2

[Report on Islamic Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mehdi Karrubi's Majles speech on 25 February in Tehran]

[Text] Following the Khorramabad and Fuman deputies' speeches, Majles speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mehdi Karrubi spoke on the Mab'ath [bestowing of the divine mission] of the holy Prophet, peace be upon him. He also spoke on the exhortations and the decrees of his eminence the imam, may God be pleased with him.

First he congratulated all the Muslims of the world on the holy mission of the noble Prophet of Islam, the final prophet, and added: The divine missions of prophets were the instruments for humanity's salvation and God's greatest bounty for human beings. God has explained "favors" in the holy Koran and said, "We have granted you favors and sent prophets and messengers to guide you." [preceding Koranic verse in Persian rather than Arabic] In fact, if there had been no prophets or divine missions bestowed on him, man would have wallowed in the lowest levels of debauchery, wickedness, and decadence of all time.

These divine missions allowed man to rescue himself from the lowest levels of debauchery and degradation and to attain the quintessence of his existence. These divine missions freed man from the shackles and despotism of the idolaters and from the bondage of carnal desires and egocentricity.

The Majles speaker added: Unfortunately, in this time of malice and unbridled licentiousness, no human has bowed to the hallowed and brilliant injunctions of the prophets, but the prophets and their associates' efforts and their heroism in combatting the various tribulations and hardships has always been there throughout history. Their constant struggle between truth and falsehood to save man from the fetters and bondage of the idolaters has also always been there.

He continued: With God's blessings, our Islamic society reached the pinnacle of greatness by obeying the injunctions of the illustrious Islamic prophet and the exhortations of our dear imam. It toppled the idolatrous monarchical system, drove the enemies from our Islamic homeland, and by implementing the Islamic tenets, the pure Muhammadan Islam, shattered all the fetters and effected changes, transformations, and a real cultural revolution in our society.

These changes and transformations were effected with the great and noble imam's blessings and guidance and with the propounding of various plans, principles, and values in which the imam believed. The imam blazed a trail and explained the path for all Muslims and for Iran, so that in his absence or death the nation would understand its obligations and responsibilities. The nation would also know how to act so that the enemy would not be able to return, the American version of Islam would not take hold, and the divine values would not be dissipated.

The Majles speaker said: Today, one hears utterances which inspire astonishment and anxiety. Not even a year has elapsed since the imam, and we hear such remarks in theological circles and, surprisingly, from people one would not expect. I wish to announce very clearly that our people are the imam's followers, and no distortion or fallacy can conceal these facts. Our people are the imam's followers. Obeying the imam means that the modus operandi and the directives and exhortations are those that the imam specified. He added: On the first night after the imam died, the office of the imam and of his dear son announced that those who were associated with the imam and his representatives would no longer receive any funds. Instead, these funds were to be given to those centers they deemed fit or they were to consult the leadership regarding these funds. It is very clear that other directives should be issued, so the great leader issued certain directives which he deemed generally appropriate. He also changed what he considered necessary. However, we know fully well what these people want when they raise such issues.

In fact, the meaning is quite clear. However, we are all obedient and are more or less aware of the exhortations. We also have the knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence and jurisprudents to a certain extent. The political, economic, and cultural bases that the imam propounded and the imam's bases and exhortations that are in his will are important. Does the will pertain to the period that the imam was alive or the period after the imam?

It is indisputable that the provisions of the will are for the post-imam period. In fact, no one was aware of the contents of the will until the imam died. What the imam stated in the manifesto of the revolution, in his will, and in his directives and letters were all for guidance for the period after him. During the imam's life, whenever he perceived any deviation or aberration, however minor, he straightened it out with the sword of his justice and did not feel embarrassed in front of anyone for doing so. It is of utmost importance that the imam's principles and frameworks are to guide the people after him.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi added: I wish to inform those who are operating behind the scenes, are hiding behind these clothes, and are behind all this, that the pure Muhammadan Islam reigns supreme and the imam cleared it of all the dust and the heavy veils which hid it from the people. He cut through its layers and showed the people the pure Muhammadan Islam. This pure Muhammadan Islam is for eternity, and no one will permit American agents to draw the veils over it again. We know what these people want, and they should be fully aware that the war between poverty and wealth continues and will never be eliminated. (cheers from the audience)

Friends and foes alike should know fully well what the imam meant when he said, "I will not trade one hair from the head of the hut-dwellers for 100 hairs from the palace-dwellers. This is true now and always and will never be undone. This is one of the imam's principles. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He continued: There are two kinds of Islam—the pure version and the American version. American Islam is not only found in Saudi Arabia but also in Iran, and there is a constant conflict between the two. However, pure Islam is eternal. The arrogant and the oppressed are always there. There were some who said that there is no war between poverty and wealth, but the imam said there is. He said that there is an Islam of those who are barefoot and an Islam of those who are wealthy and heartless. This has always been the case.

Therefore, one must note these two factors. The imam took the trouble and worked hard in this regard. He endured immense tribulations but continued with perseverance and courage. With the high level of his scholarship, the imam was able to tear everything apart. Did he do so only for the period in which he was alive or was it for eternity? The imam campaigned against outdated, primitive trends, and in his letter to Mr. Qadiri [not further identified] he said: "I am saying all this, and if it is ordained that someone should make a sacrifice, how nice it would be that I would be the one sacrificed."

Has all this ended now that the imam is gone? This is for eternity. The imam's associates, led by the great leader, who is his best associate and who defends the same values, principles, and bases with the same acumen, perseverance, and fortitude, as well as our president who is also among the imam's best associates, are also dealing with this issue. The imam's soldiers are everywhere, and they defend the imam's principles and bases, which they will never forsake for any price.

The Majles speaker continued: I wish to announce the following to everybody operating behind the scenes who think something has happened or changes are in the offing. As we hear on various bulletins, "The United States says: Conditions are just as they were in Imam Khomeyni's time, and until they change there will be no reforms or changes in the situation." The forces are present and ready. The atmosphere is the same and the imam's spirit reigns over our society. The officials are also serving the imam's way of thinking and should not feel that anything has changed. Those who are behind the scenes should not believe they can smell something happening. There is no such thing. The situation and the standards are the same as they were, and the criteria are exactly the same as the the imam delineated for the society and the nation. He continued: I swear to God, if for one day this Majles would not be at our disposal, or if this tribunal would not be here, we would defend the imam's principles from the mosques and in gatherings. If the Majles or this tribunal were not here, we would stand on the street corners and in the public buses and repeat the imam's directives to the people.

The revolution has been exported and, praise be to God, our nation is an omniscient one and is aware of what goes on. The imam's exhortations are for us, and they will never lose their validity. For some they were never valid. Now that the occasion has arisen, I am repeating what we said when we held debates at the private sessions. We said that later it would be clear whether the imam's word was good. This was valid at that time as it is now, and it will continue to be valid in the future.

Therefore, we must ensure that the imam's culture, vision, and mode of thought continue to prevail. We have the best protector of values and of the imam's principles—the imam's son, who is dealing with these matters. We also have the imam's associate, brother, and disciple who is the imam's successor standing steadfast as a rock in defending the imam's values and principles and not budging a step backward.

*Khamene'i Said To Seek Aid of Army

90OI0189B London KEYHAN in Persian 1 Mar 90 pp 1-2

[Text] The continued unrest and demonstrations in opposition to the regime in Tehran and other cities and the serious anxiety of the regime concerning clashes between the people and members of the Guards Corps and the agents of the committees has resulted in the Islamic Republic turning to the Army, which enjoys support among the society, in order to maintain "order."

Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, said in a visit with the commanders of the major Ground and Air Force units of the Army that the regime of the Islamic Republic has no objective other

than the salvation of mankind. Hence, defending this "system" is more important and more valuable for the Army than defending the borders of the country. He considered the defense of the Islamic "system" a means to please God and a divine and humanitarian duty. To encourage the commanders of the ground forces to defend the "system," he said:

"Today, the Army is dear in the true sense of the word, and the national authorities are appreciative of all the Armed Forces and love them. Also, our beloved imam always respected the Army."

In his speech to the commanders of the major Ground and Air Force units of the Army, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i first explained the moral and spiritual aspects of "defending a regime whose purpose is to save humanity" and said:

"Defending a regime whose goal is human salvation and the saving of humanity from all suffering is much more important and valuable than defending the borders."

He turned to the Ground Forces and pleaded with their commanders to preserve the regime at a time when, according to reports from Tehran, some units of the Ground Forces are stationed in south Tehran, near Tarehbar Square, Khaniabad, and Railroad Square as well as around the radio and television organization.

According to reports which have not yet been totally verified, several tanks were also seen in sensitive areas, particularly in south Tehran.

Simultaneous with the Khamene'i meeting with the commanders of the Ground Forces of the military, on Tuesday afternoon, 24 February [as published], Hashemi-Rafsanjani called an emergency meeting of the members of the National Security Council. In this meeting, the current issues of the country and the issue of the Iran-Iraq peace negotiations were discussed. According to an informed source in Tehran, in the meeting of the National Security Council, the unrest in Tehran and other cities and ways to counter it were examined.

In the past week, news concerning the unrest and disturbances in the capital and the cities of Mashhad, Tabriz, Esfahan, Najafabad, Varamin, Maragheh, and several other cites has extended abroad.

The French news agency which reported the 50,000-person demonstrations on Friday [23 February] from the center of Tehran reported on Thursday [1 March] that the unrest and chaos continues.

The office of Reza Pahlavi, the king of Iran, also issuing a communique, verified the continuation of the demonstrations and unrest in various parts of Tehran and other cities.

According to the communique dated 23 November [as published] by the office of Reza Pahlavi, the supporters of constitutional monarchy engaged in demonstrations against the regime in the cities of Tehran, Esfahan, Mashhad, and Tabriz.

Concerning the demonstrations on 23 February, the office of Reza Pahlavi announced that demonstrations by the supporters of constitutional monarchy took place on Amiriyyeh Street, 'Abbasabad Street, and Pakestan Street, near Railroad Square.

The announcement in TEHRAN PARS claims that the opponents of the regime in "Khak-e Sefid and Qanat-e Kowsar" had clashes with the officials. A number of gasoline stations were set on fire by the people after the demonstrations spread.

Meanwhile, Reza Pahlavi sent a message to Iranians in the country, praising their struggle against the regime and warning the Guards Corps and the law-enforcement agents of the regime to avoid suppressing the people and not to stain their hands with the blood of the people who have no goal but freedom and liberation.

Sending another message to Iranians abroad, Reza Pahlavi asked them to support the people's resistance inside the country.

Other reports by the office of the National Resistance Movement in Paris verified the continued unrest in Tehran and other cities.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization also reported the spread of the demonstrations on behalf of the organization. However, the report on the explosion in the Islamic Revolutionary Committee in Niavaran which was announced by several groups has not yet been verified.

None of the reports that we have received in this connection indicate violent clashes between the officials and the people, except in one instance, and that one instance has not been verified by any reliable source.

A very reliable foreign source from Tehran verified in a telephone conversation with KEYHAN that "on Monday," people "in uniforms" were seen in the streets, and the situation in the city was not normal.

Economic Situation Has Worsened

All reports from Tehran indicate that the economic situation in the country has not only failed to improve, but has worsened considerably over the past few months. The high prices of goods and materials needed by the people, which the government had promised to eliminate, continue as before. Not only have the prices of goods not declined, but they are increasing day by day.

These reports come at a time when the bad living conditions have reached a point that ordinary people can no longer tolerate them, and for this reason, they engage in riots and unrest without fear of clashes with the agents of the regime.

The Regime Tolerates

The distinguishing signs of the regime's tolerance with regard to the protests and opposing demonstrations are seen more clearly every day. In Tehran, the Hezbollah members who were once brought to the scene with knives and chains have disappeared.

The Guards Corps and committee members too do not come out to face the demonstrators, and the heads of the government seriously avoid the possibility of the demonstrations expanding and turning into a tragedy for the regime should people get killed.

Political observers see the caution on the part of the clerical regime as a result of the events in Eastern Europe and feel that the clerics try not to give the people, who are encouraged by the wave of liberation throughout the world, an excuse to protest against the regime.

Karrubi Praises Relief Committee's Efforts

LD0503215890 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Ceremonies marking the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee [KRC] was staged this afternoon in the presence of Karrubi, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and a number of officials in Unity Hall.

In this ceremony, Karrubi, in his remarks, praised the earnest efforts of the KRC's officials and referred to the point that the establishment of the revolution's institutions were initiatives that deserved the imam's praise and said: Today, 11 years after the victory of the revolution, we realize that if these revolutionary bodies and institutions did not exist, there is no knowing what would have happened to the fate of the revolution and country. In relation to the legal status of the revolutionary institutions, he also said: The deputies of the Islamic Majles have endeavored, during every term, to clarify the true status of these institutions and this problem has been solved through the goodwill of the deputies, and efforts will also be made to solve other problems.

The Islamic Majles speaker, emphasizing the need to safeguard and strengthen the revolutionary institutions said: The morale that exists among the forces of these institutions is a source of joy to people, and revives the spirit of the revolution in people's hearts. On the basis of this report, before the speech delivered by the Islamic Majles speaker, the KRC supervisor submitted a report to those present on the 11 years of activities by the Relief Committee, in their various dimensions.

Majles Meets, Ratifies Amendments to Budget

LD0603114190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, during today's open session of the Islamic Majles chaired by the speaker, Mr. Karrubi, the bill on amendments of the country's budget law for the year 1368 [year ending 20 March 1990] was presented to the Majles with double urgency; and its double urgency was ratified.

Yazdi, Officials Discuss Justice, Security

LD0403173190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0600 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] A meeting of the high-ranking judiciary official was held this morning chaired by Yazdi, head of the judiciary. During this meeting the head of the judiciary, while stressing the need to maintain unity and solidarity between the authority and the people, said: At present we do not feel as if there is any obscure point in recognition of the imam's line and the imam's line, be it in the political arena or in the strategies that his holiness clarified during his life and particularly during the past 10 years, is fully and clearly understood by all the people and the state authorities; and on such issues as the principle of neither east nor west, not being dependent on any foreign power in foreign policy, the principle of supporting the deprived and the oppressed and the need for efforts by the country's entire executive systems to achieve social jutice in the country, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran has clearly specified and determined the route and moving path of us all. What is related to the judiciary has also been specified very clearly and explicitly by his holiness the imam, may Almighty God be satisfied with his deeds, in his instructions, decrees and in his will and testament; and the imam has graciously emphasized that the judicial executive is responsible for protecting the people's assets, honor and their life; and the judiciary must be very careful to safeguard the people's honor, assets and their lives. The judicial power must maintain security in society by observing justice.

In continuing the consultative meeting of the high ranking judicial official, sone decisions were made on activities by private companies, which are set up by selling their shares to the public; and it was agreed that offenders should be dealt with decisively through cooperation with other state authorities. [video shows meeting in progress; approximately eight mullahs around a table]

SAIRI Convenes Annual Session in Tehran

LD0403213290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] In the annual session of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] which convened yesterday with the participation of representatives from inside and outside Iran, in Tehran, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, the head of SAIRI, while stressing the necessity for unity among all opposition Iraqi forces, said that the chief goal of the struggles of Iraqi opposition forces is the struggle for the achievement of the Iraqi people's Islamic and revolutionary aspirations.

In this session, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salak, representative of the vali-ye faqih in the affairs of Iraq and supervisor of the Committee for Attending to Iraqi Issues, said: Iraqi mojaheds will, without doubt, place the glory and greatness of Islam before certain secondary problems. Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud hashemi, speaker of the SAIRI, was the last speaker of these sessions yesterday morning which, emphasizing the presence of Islam as the active and practical theory in today's world, called on Muslims to cooperate and assist each other until the Islamic world government materializes.

Support of Khamene'i Renewed

LD0503224190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] The session of the Supreme Assembly of of Iraq [SAIRI] General Assembly which was convened in Tehran to renew its allegiance to the guardian of the Muslims' cause—His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i—ended its work this afternoon and issued a resolution. The session was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, head of SAIRI; Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mahmud Hashemi, speaker of SAIRI; Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek, representative of the supreme jurisconsult in affairs pertaining to Iraq [Umur-e Araq] and supervisor of the committee for attending to Iraqi issues; representatives of SAIRI in different countries; clergymen and representatives of Iraqi mujaheds in the Badr Corps. Work ended with the formation of three committees.

In the concluding resolution, the world's Muslims and oppressed are congratulated for the election of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader of the Islamic revolution which has brought strength to the spirit of steadfastness and resistance and has foiled the conspiracies of global arrogance. SAIRI representatives' allegiance to the eminent leader was emphasized. Also in the resolution, the need for coordinating between struggling forces was underlined.

Iran-Soviet Cooperation Commission Meets in Tehran

Technical Cooperation Discussed

LD0303231390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Mr. (?Lvoditov), the Soviet Union's deputy metallurgy minster [name, title as heard] and a member of that country's economic delegation in the joint session of Iran-Soviet Economic-Technical Cooperation Commission, met with the Ministry of Mines and Metals deputy for nonferrous metals this evening.

Discussions were held in the meeting about technical cooperation and about the production of aluminum powder from domestic resources. The two sides discussed and studied, on the basis of a protocol signed in the month of Dey [month beginning 22 Dec 89], the technology used for the extraction of aluminum from Azerbaijan's minerals. Disucussions were also held in the meeting about the expansion of the copper, lead, and zinc industries and the production (?titanium dioxide) in Iran. While stressing the implementation of the signed protocol, the two sides called for the expansion of industrial and mining ties between the two countries.

Soviet Official Comments on Talks

LD0503214590 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 5 Mar 90

[Text] Shiraz, March, 5, IRNA—Iran has discussed cooperation in space research with the Soviet Union, including the possibility of sending an Iranian astronaut into space on a Soviet space ship.

The issue was reviewed at the 12th Irano-Soviet joint economic commission, and according to Nikolay Konarev, who leads the Soviet side to the talks, the two countries have discussed cooperation in various fields ranging from industries and agriculture to space research.

He said the negotiations focused on extensive cooperation in the fields of steel mill, energy, machine building, fisheries, geology, telemetry, banking, air travel and training of manpower.

In a meeting with local officials, Konarev said the Soviet people were moving towards strengthening friendship and cooperation with the Iranian people as stipulated in the letter sent by the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev last year.

The Soviet Union has a 70 million-plus Muslim population, and the late Imam Khomeyni's historic letter to Gorbachev on January 4, 1989, praised the latter's reforms and invited him to seriously study Islam as a substitute to the decadent Marxist system.

After 70 years of Communist suppression, Islam is very much alive in the Soviet Union, the letter had noted.

Konarev, who is visiting this southern historical city, is to return to Tehran tonight.

Talks Held on Fisheries

LD0603164190 Tehran IRNA in English 1357 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 6, IRNA—Visiting Soviet Railways Minister Nikolay Konarev today discussed with Construction Jihad Minister Gholameza Foruzesh mutual cooperation in fisheries and purchase of trawlers and equipment for canned food industries from the Soviet Union.

Among other topics discussed by the two were exchange of fisheries experts, revival of pastures and elimination of deserts.

Konarev is the head of the Soviet side to the 12th Irano-Soviet Joint Economic Commission.

In a separate meeting later today, Konarev held talks with Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahluchi on expansion of technical ties and increasing the capacity of the Isfahan Steel Mill to 1.9 million tons annually.

USSR To Aid Establishment of Nuclear Power Units

NC0703080990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] Two nuclear power stations—each with a capacity of 440 megawatts—are to be set up in Iran with Soviet assistance. According to the Central News Unit, in a meeting of the Soviet minister of transport [title as heard] with the presidential deputy and the head of the Iranian nuclear energy organization, the Soviet minister announced the definite agreement of his country to cooperate in the establishment of two nuclear energy units, each with a capacity of 440 megawatts, in Iran.

During this meeting the two parties also reached agreement on other means of cooperation for peaceful purposes in the nuclear field.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

NC0703111890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] With the signing of a Soviet-Iranian cooperation protocol in Tehran, the four-day talks between the Soviet transport minister [title as heard] and our economic affairs and finance minister concluded. The talks took place within the framework of the 12th session of the permanent joint economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation commission.

According to the Central News Unit, at the conclusion of the session last night Mr. Nurbakhsh, the minister for economic affairs and finance, expressed his satisfaction at the talks and the outcome of the 12th session. He said: The export of gas, the increasing of the capacity of the Esfahan Steel Mill, the establishment of a power station, and the implementation of joint development projects were the most important topics discussed during this session.

He also referred to the talks and the initial agreement on the establishment of two nuclear power stations. Regarding the export of gas to the Soviet Union, Mr. Nurbakhsh announced that more than 3 billion cubic meters of gas will be exported to the Soviet Union annually. He added: With the convening of the talks, technical ambiguities on the export of gas were resolved. Discussions on the specification of prices will continue till the end of the current year. The prices of the exported gas will be based on the standard international prices for gas.

Mr. Konarev, the Soviet transport minister and head of the Soviet delegation, expressed his satisfaction at the remarkable results attained by the two countries in the field of cooperation. He stressed: With the agreement reached, the Soviet Union will act in a very responsible manner. He attributed the difference in the latest protocol to its fruitful contents and the delineation of the fields of cooperation.

The Soviet transport minister also described the progress in the talks between the two countries as more effective than that in all other accords reached, because of the agreements between the leaders of Iran and the Soviet Union. He said that the talks between Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani had paved the way for these agreements.

Paper Praises Closure of Tehran BBC Office

NC0103221090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Feb 90 p 11

[Unattributed commentary: "The Need for a More Active Approach Toward the British"]

[Text] The British Government's broadcasting agency in Tehran has been closed, and the Ministry of Islamic Guidance ordered this to be done. Terminating this office's reporting activities was the least the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran could do in light of the British Government's hostile acts.

This measure was a response to the British Government's reactive measures, including expelling a group of Iranian students and expelling the correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London. The measure was sort of a reaction on the Islamic Republic of Iran's part and was conducted, nevertheless, with poise and decisiveness.

In the past year, since the Imam Khomeyni, may God be pleased with him, issued his legal edict against the author and publishers of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials have had the upper hand in the political campaign against the foolish British officials. Even today, they have the absolute upper hand in this campaign. In other words, instead of waiting for the brazen London officials' hostile acts and then reacting, we should preempt all actions and measures like these.

Our people do not need the British news agencies and institutions' services. When our students return from Great Britain, they can always continue their education, without disruption, in another country where their safety can be assured. Concerning our trade relations with Great Britain, there is no special privilege or need that we cannot satisfy through trade relations with other countries, even the European countries.

Thus, our situation demands that the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials should move swiftly toward ending all kinds of ties with the British. Severing ties with the British in the past year proved to be an excellent lesson for the officials in charge of the country's foreign policy. Severing ties proved that the London courtiers can be pushed so far back in their anti-Islamic campaign that

they have to resort to the most contemptible tactics possible to restore ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

We should not underestimate the debilitating pressure that the British Muslims exerted on the London government. On one hand this pressure and the reactive gestures of London's government—such as the arrest and expulsion without reason of Iranian citizens and students—along with the official and unofficial requests for resuming ties with Iran on the other hand, have proved that it is the British who need ties with Iran. This is a fact.

Reason and logic dictate that given two options, an "active approach" or a "reactive approach," we should adopt the first course and continue to hold the initiative in our own hands against the mischief-mongering British. With absolute shamelessness, the British Government entered the arena to test its strength against the Islamic world, and it suffered a disgraceful defeat.

The time has come to throw London's disgrace back in its face. We should respond appropriately to the audacity of the myopic British officials by announcing calculated decisions against Great Britain. This is the natural request from the people of Iran and from the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who should also respond swiftly by declaring their intentions.

$4 Million Trade Agreement Signed With China

LD2802130390 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 28 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 28, IRNA—Iran and the People's Republic of China concluded a four-million dollar agreement here Wednesday.

According to the agreement Iran's national industrial group will export three million feet of sorted leather to China.

The agreement was signed for Iran by director general of the group's exports department Shahram Hariri, and for China by the visiting director general for the Chinese import-export, Li Zhiwei.

Li is heading a 15-member delegation which arrived in Tehran Saturday on a week-long visit to tour Iran's economic centers.

The Chinese delegation will hold talks with Iranian officials on the expansion of bilateral economic ties.

*Council of Ministers Announces Appointments

90OI0192B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 14 Feb 90 p 4

[Text]

- At the suggestion of the Minister of the Interior and with the approval of the Council of Ministers, Engineer Mohammad Hasan Tula'i was appointed as governor-general of Khuzestan. At a meeting of the Council of Ministers the service of Mohsen Mirdamadi, the former governor-general of Khuzestan, was praised.
- In a directive from Doctor Mohsen Nurbakhsh, minister of economic affairs and finance, Dr. Iraj Tutunchian was appointed consultant to the deputy minister of economic affairs and finance for international studies in the area of economic research.
- Hatam Naru'i, a member of the Board of Directors of the Iranian Central Rural Cooperative Organization, was appointed as successor to the chairman of the Board of Directors and acting director of this organization by Dr. Kalantari, minister of agriculture.
- In a directive from the mayor of Tehran, Mohammad 'Ali Tarrafo' was appointed as acting director of the Tehran and vicinity Vahed Bus Company.

In this directive Karbaschi, mayor of Tehran, praised the activities of Chehpur, the company's former acting director.

Based on a directive from Engineer Mohammad Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephone, Hamid Reza Mehdiyar was appointed as a member of the board of directors of the Islamic Republic of Iran Post Company and went to work.

Nepal

Outlawed Parties Plan Protests, General Strike

BK0603140590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 6 (AFP)—Outlawed political parties seeking an end to Nepal's partyless panchayat system have called for another general strike and more protests starting Friday [9 March].

"We have planned to hold public meetings and burn the effigy of panchayat in Kathmandu and other districts of the kingdom on March 9," R.K. Mainali, a spokesman for the United Leftist Front (ULF) said.

The banned Nepali Congress, which spearheaded a nationwide campaign begun February 18 against the 30-year-old system, is also organizing the latest series of protests from March 9 to March 23.

Government officials said only a radical minority was stirring trouble and vowed to crush those who create too much disturbance. Those involved in the tourist industry meanwhile said their trade was beginning to suffer because of the political turmoil.

"The banned parties have called for yet another general strike and demonstrations throughout the country on March 14 displaying their banned party banners," the ULF spokesman added.

On March 10, 11 and 12 meanwhile the banned parties have vowed to display and distribute the outlawed party banners in various districts such as Kathmandu and the

nearby communities of Bhaktapur and Lalitpur. And on March 13 an anti-panchayat demonstration has been planned here.

The banned parties have said political agitation will continue until the Himalayan kingdom has a multi-party system and complete human rights.

Hotel owners, tourist agencies and representatives here for international airlines meanwhile have complained that the protests in the last two weeks have already discouraged foreign tourists from visiting Nepal. Many tourists have already cancelled their hotel bookings, tour programmes and mountain treks, an official for a leading travel agency told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on condition of anonymity. "We managed to carry out the tourists programmes up to the end of February with great difficulties, but from March first onward it was not possible to sell our programmes in Nepal," he said.

According to reports from Bhairahawa, 390 kilometers (243 miles) southwest of Kathmandu, six activists of the banned parties were arrested Monday when they tried to stage a demonstration. The occasion was the seventh anniversary of the deaths of Yadav Nath Alok and Ram Prasad Chaudhary, who were assassinated in 1983.

Panchayat leaders claimed that the banned political parties lack real support. "It is only a handful of people and communist radicals (who) are bent upon destructive activities and disturbing the peace in the country. We will crush them if they become too unruly," said a government official.

Officials also maintaind that there was no violation of human rights in the country and that families of political detainees were permitted to meet their relatives occasionally. But banned party leaders claimed that the government has not yet prepared a list of arrested people and their families were not allowed to meet them.

Writers, Entertainers Demand Probe of Killings

OW0503000190 Tokyo KYODO in English 2323 GMT 4 Mar 90

[Text] Kathmandu, March 5 KYODO—A group of Nepalese writers and entertainers issued a statement Sunday demanding an independent inquiry into the killings and other acts of violence that have occurred in Nepal in the past two weeks.

"The brutal killings have deeply hurt our conscience," said the statement signed by some 43 poets, dramatists, novelists, artists and comedians.

They also called on the government to stop torturing the "patriotic" Nepalese detained in connection with the current agitation aimed at ending a ban on political parties.

The government meanwhile said Sunday that 184 people were released from detention in different parts of the country on Sunday. The number of people still held was not given.

Some 50 doctors, nurses and paramedics wore black armbands at Kathmandu's Patan Hospital on Sunday to protest the killing of demonstrators.

5 MP's Arrested for Multiparty Movement Ties

BK0603164390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 90

[Text] In Nepal, a procession was taken out in Janakpur today in connection with the movement for a multiparty system. According to the authorities, police resorted to a lathi [baton] charge to disperse the demonstrators. Three persons were arrested.

Meanwhile, investigation of cases has begun against two members of the Nepalese Rashtriya Panchayat [Parliament], Mr. Bin Bahadur Shrestha and Mr. Jagrit Prasad Bhutwal, who were arrested in connection with the movement.

AIR [All-India Radio] 's Kathmandu correspondent reports that court cases have been filed against these two under the crime against the state and the punishment act for an attempt to overthrow the government. In all, five members of the Rashtriya Panchayat have been arrested in connection with the movement.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Spokesman on Afghan Developments

BK0703052190 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad last night that the Government of Pakistan is very cautiously studying the situation in Kabul. Commenting on the latest developments there, he said the Afghan people's uprising against the Kabul regime testifies to the fact they want to get rid of the administration that was imposed on them through foreign military intervention. The spokesman said a peaceful settlement of the issue is possible only when power is transferred to a broad-based government.

Officials Discuss 'Volatile' Afghan Situation

BK0703082690 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Mar 90

[Text] A meeting was held in Islamabad today to discuss the current volatile situation obtaining in Afghanistan. The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, presided. Instructions were issued to various agencies concerned to keep a close watch on the situation and carefully monitor the developments taking place in Afghanistan. The minister of state for defense, Colonel, Retired, Ghulam Sarwar Cheema; adviser to the prime minister

on finance, Mr. V.A. Jafarey; chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Admiral Iftikhar Ahmad Sirohey; the services chiefs; foreign secretary; and concerned officials attended the meeting.

Kashmiri Leader Warns of Increased Violence

BK0603121590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 6 Mar 90

[By Babar Naqvi]

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, March 6 (AFP)—The leader of Kashmir's most active separatist group warned Tuesday [6 March] that Muslim nationalists would intensify their violent campaign against New Delhi if Indian troops continued to kill Kashmiris.

"Everything now depends on the Indians," said Amanullah Khan, president of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF). "Naturally, we will intensify our operations if they continue to kill our people like cattle. We will not stop unless they stop."

Mr. Khan, whose group is considered the most active and organized in the Indian part of Kashmir, said in an interview that he was confident New Delhi would be defeated by a three-way armed, diplomatic and political attack. "I am sure that sooner or later, we will throw out the occupation forces from our motherland," Mr. Khan, 55, said in his office here in the capital of Pakistan-controlled Jammu and Kashmir.

"We will show India's ugly face hidden behind the veil of democracy and secularism," he said sitting in front of a huge portrait of Maqbul Butt, a Kashmiri leader hanged in New Delhi six years ago and adopted as a martyr of the independence movement.

Mr. Khan denounced what he called the suppression of peaceful demonstrations by Indian security forces and described the new Jammu and Kashmir governor, Jag Mohan, as "a beast in his nature and character" who "has been given full authority to crush the freedom movement."

Mr. Khan said he was opposed to a new war between Pakistan and India over the territory and said an independent Kashmir would be in the interests of both countries, which are spending huge sums to defend the region. "In case of a war, the (independence) issue will go to the back page of the newspapers and the headlines will be on the battle," he said.

The two neighbours have fought two wars over Kashmir since the partition of the subcontinent by the British in 1947.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of helping the separatists, but Islamabad has denied the charge and has called for a vote by Kashmiris to decide if they want to stay with India, join Pakistan or become independent.

Mr. Khan said that his JKLF branch in Pakistan was giving "guidelines to the militants on the field" and described himself as a "nationalist" defending the "Islamic identity" of Kashmir.

He also called on the nations of the world to support his movement, saying India would have to choose "to keep its international image and leave Kashmir or retain the valley by force and be looked down upon by the entire world." "I am sure that the world would be conscientious enough to support our movement" as it did to force "the Russians out of Afghanistan, the Americans out of Vietnam and the French out of Algeria," he said.

"We tried our best through peaceful means for 40 years, but instead of listening to us, they (the Indians) kept on suppressing the Kashmiris, considering them as second-class citizens," Mr. Khan said. "Today, we are not begging for charity. We are not asking an undue favour. We are asking for our right, which we fully deserve."

Mr. Khan, a former journalist, said the JKLF had "nothing to do" with fundamentalist religious groups in Kashmir.

When asked whether women should cover themselves by wearing chadors, he replied: "If they don't wear (veils), I would not mind."

More than 150 people have been killed by Indian security forces since early January in Jammu and Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in India, where the JKLF has organized demonstrations almost daily. The last major clash was on March 1, when more than 30 people were reported killed and 100 injured as security forces opened fire on demonstrators in the Jammu and Kashmir summer capital Srinagar.